

FANDOM

Speaks #3



—John Cockroft—1947—

10¢
DEC. '47

FANDOM SPEAKS

12/4
NUMBER 3

Edited by Jack Clements, at 6310 Madison Rd
Cincinnati 27, Ohio. Published at 428 Main
St by Rex Ward. Send letters to the former
address. . . .

EDITORIAL

An unusually large ish, this time, but out on time. First, a few apologies. To John Cockroft, for the lousy reproduction of his superb pic this ish, and also for ruining the effect of his letter lasttime by sticking that obnoxious nude in the middle of it. Won't be repeated. To Edwin Sigler, for the poor reproduction of his signature. And that should be dear instead of dear in Al Lopez's letter; there are mistakes in typing galore sprinkled throughout, for which we ask your pardon. We left off the names of the three authors of the three last books mentioned in the full-page ad--L. Ron Hubbard wrote DEATH'S DEPUTY, and Stanton Coblenz wrote THE SUNKEN WORLD.

Henceforth the letters will be deleted in some parts if necessary. " At last we can determine the winner of the original to be Don Wilson, whose letter was voted best in the first issue. The cover original of the 2000 AD #2 cover will be forwarded to him immediately. " Our poll will take shape next issue. Cards will be sent with each issue. You are asked to fill in the blank (only one) and drop the card in the mailbox--you'll have to pay no postage.

Be sure to vote for the best letter each issue--remember we still give the cover original to the winner.

We have a surprise coming up next ish. We won't tell you what it is, but you can't miss it--it's really eye-catching.

All of you have no doubt received the supplement, with the two open letters to fandom. One person (Don Wilson) has already written a letter of comment on the content of that special ish--you are all invited to give forth with your opinions too. Everybody's welcome!

And of course, everyone's welcome to write letters to FS all the time. The subjects are unlimited--write about anything you wish. Make your letters interesting, that's all we ask.

Our ad rates are \$1 per page, 50¢ half, and 25¢ quarter-page. Those prices are low -- take advantage of them!

We have some mighty fine letters coming up, from Gibson, Greenleaf, Wilson (we know he'll write, even tho we haven't received any letter yet) Evans, Schaumburger, and many others. The next issue should be out 1 Dec if everything goes well. It probably won't be as large as this ish, but you never can tell....

YOUR STATUS ON OUR LIST IS AS FOLLOWS

- Your subscription has expired -- won't you renew?
- This is the numbers you have coming on your subscription.
- A trade.
- Sample copy. Complimentary copy.
Will you sub?
- No more issues for you if you don't send a sub or a letter!

Here's that famous letter by Bill Temple, which we promised you last issue. We won't try to give it any flowery introductions, but we'll let Forrest J Ackerman explain:

"In the 50 numbers of VOICE OF THE IMAGINATION which I published from January 1939, I printed approximately 750 letters from fans. My magazine (nicknamed Vom) was established as a forum of fandom, and was the original 'letterzine'. And out of all those thousands of words, the most memorable undoubtedly were those of a British fan, Bill Temple, published during the war in the Hallowe'en 1944 number.

"Periodically a fan will blaze like a nova, pen a pyrotechnic farewell to fandom, and turn apostate in a coruscation of condemnation. He will liken himself to a butterfly who has burst its paralyzing chrysalis (fandom) and flown out into the real World. Or, he has metamorphosed from a pollywog into a frog, and contemptuously leaves the little pool of fanactivity behind him. At this point he croaks.

"Unsolicited, from somewhere in Italy, came this affirmation of faith in fankind from an individual who could scarcely be accused of never having experienced life (with a capital Hell) or of emulating the ostrich and seeking escape. Temple's tribute to STF and its acolytes stands as an inspiration for all time for 'fen' of good will."

And so without further ado, here's the letter. (We might add that this letter was intended as an entry in the Thrilling Wonder Stories fanzine-reprint-sponsored contest, but, as that contest folded, it landed up here.) #/

////////////////////////////////////
I've just re-read the April VolK, which means reading it for the first time properly. My first "reading" was a hasty skim-through in the press of other business, a business dealing with bangs of varying intensitiés. But now I've been stranded with no reading material other than this VolK. So I re-read & re-read it, & your contributors would be flattered to know just how much consideration I gave to their every point. And there were plenty of points. But the only one I'll comment on now is this business of making the final break with fandom.

I guess most fans who have kept it up for 10 years or more now must often have come to the point of impatience where fandom is felt to be an incubus from which one must free oneself. Consider: the average fan has many other interests: music, poetry, philosophy, some branch of practical science, active politics, active sex, beer, baseball, sleep for instance, & the time he can give to them is limited firstly by his bread 'n butter job & secondly by fandom. And the greatest of these is fandom. Oh, the big, big bundle of long, long letters always to answer; the articles demanded by far-away editors; the stacks of not-so-good fan-mags to decode from near-illegibility, the endless arguments about religion, the storms in tea-cups over nudes, the vaporings about the New World by children who don't even understand the character of the Old, the feuds & bickerings of "he said that I said that they said ... & who paid for it all in the end? I leave it to your imagination" style, & the strain to keep abreast of current gags & Stan Plans & follow Wilsey-Wilsey "speling" (no one wishes to keep abreast of current stf. these days--does anyone read it at all?) & be patient with cartoon jokes about robots!

My old Flat-mate, Ego Clarke, once the most enthusiastic fan I knew, I notice has finally stepped from under with characteristic decision, using a logic-tight argument against VolK nudes as his lever. I cannot but agree with the argument. If you cannot employ Varga or Turner don't give us those appalling substitutes. Even sauciness needs a certain flair to be brought off successfully, & none of these show it - not even the flock of rump-branded little girls belonging to the K-Ranch. Taste is what is lacking (especially in that infantile conception, the circus freak, with tripod legs and udder things too). I'm not pretending no nudes is good news, but please think of academy walls rather than latrine walls. But a break with fandom is not just a break with these rather wearisome things I have listed above. It is a break with a whole world, a whole structure of romantic associations inhabited by old, known friends of affinitive outlook. And they are a rare group, these friends: I have travelled over 12,000 miles recently & met hundreds of new people, but I have met no one else who had that outlook or would not be lost & bewildered if put amid the group. This is not to say that I haven't made friends--life-long friends, I believe, in some cases--of many witty, amusing & intelligent & acknowledgeable people. I have only to read "Alert" (Army newspaper edited by S/Sgt. Ackerman) to see that you have made alert of new friends too, & perhaps are becoming conscious for the first time of the world existing outside stf. These people call that "reality." It is the place we are supposed to be hiding from with our heads in the sands of stf. When we come up against the hard "realities" of life our stf. nonsense is supposed to be knocked out of us, & we put away childish things & become men. "I have grown out of fandom..." Actually in most cases these words mean the fellow has grown out of the more juvenile aspects of fandom: all the above list, & badges & fancy-dress-ups at conventions and such. I'm sorry for he who has really grown out of--which means grown away from--the fan outlook. There's nothing in that hard, real outer-world that is not enhanced & rose-lit & made wondrous by the cosmic view: every sunset may be made more significant when thoughts are aroused about Martian and Venusian sunsets or "The Further Vision" in Wells' "Time Machine"; every new discovery of science means so much more when the practised eye sees also the possibilities arising from it; the moon is not just a lantern in the night sky: it is a challenge; the stars are not pin-pricks on paintings: they are parts of the key to the whole universe if they can only be examined and fitted together; music is not a pastime: it is a wordless, universal language; the great novels, e.g. "War & Peace", are not something apart: they are attempts to see mankind

whole, to classify it, to put it in relation with Time Past & Time to Come; even sitting in out little family groups around the fire, we are not just Mom & Pop & the kids; we are fellow travellers & explorers through Time & Space & the mysteries therein.

Do I sound out of touch with reality? I have known reality. Once I lived on bread & jam alone because I could afford nothing else, & walked miles to save car fares. I worked for ten years at the Stock Exchange & saw the ways of wealth. I have been in the richest & poorest houses. In the Army I have grown intimate with all types of people from miners, laborers, slaughterhouse-men to professional soldiers, musicians, college men & boxers. I have watched these men in peril of death & I have seen them die, not always pleasantly or easily. I have been near enough to death myself more times than I can remember. I have known life at its greatest discomfort in water-logged fox-holes for months at Anzio, soaked in the unceasing rain with no hope of drying, hungry, freezing, & constantly shelled, bombed, machine-gunned & mortared for make-weight. In these conditions I have striven to write books and lost them. And re-written them painfully and lost them again. I have known utter loneliness & also the heart-warming comfort of gatherings of friends. I know what love, marriage, & parenthood is like, & what it is like to be separated from these things year after year, & what it is like to lose a son. I've crossed all the seas except the so-called Pacific, lived with Arabs, studied the teaming life in the very sower of civilization, the Nile Valley, gazed and wondered at the Sphinx & the Pyramids, crossed the Western Desert, fought through Tunisia, liven in Sicilian farmhouses on the slopes of Etna, travelled far & wide in Italy, seeing Naples and not dying and witnessing Vesuvius in no pleasant mood, wandered the streets of dead Pompeii, seen the Grandeur That Was Rome, the Grandeur That Is St. Peters, the anything-but-Grandeur that is the Italian peasant's home. Consider one evening not so long ago. I had just seen the Noel Coward film "This Happy Breed." It was London in the raw, an actual slice of the real London I knew so well. I carried this environment into the Rome Opera House with me. There I saw an Italian opera with a largely Italian audience. My views passed from the Cockney's eyes to the dark brown Italian ones. I saw as they. After the Opera the orchestra played Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique" Symphony. Now I saw life and Death through the eyes of that great sentimental Russian. After that I got into intimate conversation with the fellow next to me. A lively talkative Hawaiian from Honolulu. He described his home-life so well & with such imagination that I spent the next half-hour in Honolulu. Join the Army & See the World!

All this sounds a bit melodramatic. I only want to prove that stf. is not just a bolthole for people escaping from life. I have lived a fair amount, & stf. has lost none of its essential meaning through that experience. To me the imagination is somewhat nearer the heart of things than "reality." Said Flecker: "Without Vision, the people perish..." The fan outlook is my idea of vision. I want to keep in contact with fans. Without strings of 4e puns, Bob Tucker's inspired lunacy, the keen analysis of Speer, the good nature of the hard-working Lorojo, the Habelsian (?) jocularly of Les Crutch, the immensely readable efforts of the Laugherty's & Widners & many others--lord; how ordinary life would become!

As one who several times nearly went with last lingering, longing looks, & would no doubt have soon done so had it not been for this evening alone with VoM & the meditation arising from same, I swear to you, 4e, who yourself are standing with one foot in Fort MacArthur & the other roughly in the direction of the LASFS -- I am separating from the Separist Movement!

###

Edwin Sigler, of 1028 North Broadway, Wichita 5, Kansas, gives us an interesting letter on an interesting subject.

Exactly what is science-fiction? I feel that there are no hard and fast rules to be followed in the matter. I should say that it mostly depends on when the story was written whether it falls into the category of science-fiction or not. At least that is true of one type.

Let us make an assumption. We have here a story of the member of the F.B.I at about this time. He goes out on a case and the author brings in all modern methods of both crime detection and civilization. We consider it merely a good detective story which carries a vivid description of modern life for it is our own times he is describing.

To a person reading the story in 1890, if that were possible, this same story would seem to be the fantastic ravings of a highly imaginative writer for nearly everything in the story would be unknown to the people of his time. Thus radio, the airplane, and such items would seem to be utterly fantastic. The author would probably gain the reputation of being a crackpot yet we know that it is simply an ordinary detective story.

Similarly a story of life in the 1890's would seem fantastic to persons living in 1800 for reading of the railroad, steamboat, electric lights, etc. instead of sounding plausible would be the ravings of an opium addict. Knowing the world they lived in they could not conceive the change that would come in less than a century.

We can imagine the horror of a person of the year 1000 on reading of 1800 if that were possible. It would contain so many things that he had no conception of that he would probably drop to his knees and begin mumbling his beads in a frenzy of superstitious horror.

Thus it can be readily seen that at least one type of science-fiction depends for its appeal on the fact that it was written before the events profess to occur. When read after that period the stories often sound unbelievably silly. This is especially true when the author ignores all scientific fact and common sense in writing his tale. Thus to write of winged battleships which are ordinary vessels and equipped with series of broad wings which the crew members run out upon to drop bombs only arouses nausea in the reader.

Looking over old copies of various magazines one continually runs across stories of this type which even a child would laugh at for being so ridiculous. In these stories the author just inserts a lot of silly impractical gadgets that even in his day were known to be out of reason. This type of story is out of date within a short time.

The second type of science-fiction deals with possible events on other worlds. In the absence of exact information about anything is permissible. However the writer must be careful not to contradict known fact or his story will sound asinine. To illustrate he must not refer to the diurnal rotation of Mercury or the thick breathable atmosphere on the moon. Nor must his stories go counter to actual behavior of the persons involved. This entails a knowledge of psychology as well as other subjects. If this is neglected the story only sells because no real stories are available.

The third type is an attempt to say what might happen if certain scientific theory or fact were used. This is the most complicated of all since it entails a knowledge of economics, history, politics, ethics, and psychology as well as general science. There are few people who can write a story of this sort as they are always attempting to make things go counter to what has occurred in the last 6,000 years. If people have acted a certain way in the past they will act the same way in the future. They are not going to give up everything and retire to a suburban life because somebody invents a new source of power. Nor are they going to rush off to Jupiter to be turned into beasts and spend the rest of their lives endlessly roaming the planet just because some person told them it would be so wonderful.

Therefore, any story written can be based on any situation the author wishes but once he has laid the plot he is bound to obey it and must not go contrary to his basic plot. Nor may he ignore the known laws dealing with the situation.

Therefore science-fiction is an attempt to describe what could be under certain circumstances and in accordance with certain laws. Otherwise it ceases to be science-fiction and becomes either fantasy or sheer unadulterated blah.

Respectfully. ##

D. B. Thompson writes from Imperial

Nebraska, 12 Oct 47:

Greetings, Rex and Jack: Well, thanks for sending FANDOM SPEAKS. If I were not already a subscriber, I think I would send you a sub on the basis of this first issue.

Three things about it--well, maybe, four, but two of them are tied together -- 1. The regal size; that I dislike very much; how can you fit it into letter-size files? Fuie! 2. The pink ink. Use black. 3. The space given to Amazing Stories and Shaver, neither of which merits any attention at all. Tied to this is the generally juvenile tone of the letters, although this last does not, of course, apply to all letters.

Now for the letters. McDaniel is full of wind--or was, until he wrote that letter and let it all out. The recent change in Startling and TWS is all to the good; I'm now reading all of every issue except the HoF story, which, as Merwin says, is often not up to present day standards.

Rick, as usual, has a good letter, although he should sue you for correcting his spelling; takes all the flavor out of his stuff. ((He asked us to: --but take a look at the Rickletter this issue.)) But, in spite of its other good qualities, his letter is somewhat spoiled because it deals with a matter of no importance at all. The Shaver addict is not a potential fan, unless he outgrows his infatigable likes.

Don Wilson, too, deals unduly with RaP and Shaver, but in his case, there is some justification, since his own relatively innocuous remarks on Amazing policy resulted in his being called various unsavory names by the redoubtable Mr. P. I think Don's remarks, incidentally, were much less devastating than those of Dr. Gardner just after the first Shaver story appeared; he dissected the so-called "science" in that one and showed conclusively that various elementary and fundamental laws and principals were violated. That should be sufficient to end the controversy over the authenticity of Shaver's fiction. The rest of Don's letter, concerning changes in the pros and the increase in hard-cover publishing of science-fiction and fantasy, summarizes the situation quite well, although personally, I still prefer the typical ASF story to others.

Stan Woolston has a thoughtful, well-written letter. I should like to mention, however, that a "story" with no emotional appeal at all would hardly be a story. You've got to have real, live characters in good stories, and that means emotion. That, however, does not mean the type of character found in some magazines, whose thought-processes seem to be concentrated in his fist or his buck-rogers blaster. There are people like that, of course, but they are

less interesting and less important than those who can supplement their fists with their brains. Astounding tends to concentrate on characters of the last-named type; Planet on those of the first group, and the Standard magz on those in between, but with a steady shift toward the celebrating type. Margaret St. Clair is doing rather well, sure enough, although, as she indicated in her article in "Writer's Digest, she is obsessed with the notion that a stf. story must contain a certain amount of meaningless syllable-hash, as is well exemplified in the first sentence of "piety" in the Dec. TWS. Quote --Frost tossed an avenil wrapper into the space erviser's part reducer.--Unquote. That is the leuziest "hook" I ever encountered. Sam surely bought the story in spite of it, not because of it.

Moffatt's suggested subjects--race prejudice--is one of my favorite themes. It has taken up considerable space in the past in my FAPA pub., PHANTEUR, and will continue to do so. Before I spent five years in the South during the war, I had thought but little on the matter, but those years crystalized my natural antipathy for the followers of nankin and his ilk. It is encouraging to note that Jackie Robinson made the grade in baseball, which has long barred Negroes. Even more encouraging is the fact that Harvard used a Negro player against Virginia U in Virginia in the Oct. 11 football game, and that on the same day, three Negroes were on the Staten Island team that played a team in Charlottesville N.C.

Van Covering doesn't say much, except that he is right in saying that there isn't much room for serious fan fiction in the fan publications. And, for that matter, there hasn't been much humorous fan fiction that amounted to much, although there have been plenty of examples of very good humorous articles and humor in the form of articles and essays. Tucker, Yerke, and Burbee have/do excelled/excell at this form of writing. Kennedy did very well too. But I think Van will have a great deal of trouble trying to fill a fanzine with humor as distinguished from the feebler forms of corn which pass for such in many fanzines.

Carter does not have a "new idea." The idea has been proposed and discussed and found impracticable time after time in the past. It is still impracticable. The amount of work involved is far too great for any group to embark upon out of the goodness of their natures, at approximately cost. And the cost of doing it commercially, so that the operators could make a part-time or whole-time business of it, is too high for the average fan's expense account. I had some 16-page issues of PHANNY mimeed commercially. I cut the stencils, did the assembling of the printed sheets, and the mailing--and the mimeo and paper cost amounted to about ten dollars per 100-copy issue. I thought I was getting off very reasonable, too.

Guerry's comments on the Shaver matter don't deserve comment, except his question about the stadding of the stories as fiction, apart from the claims of "truth." But, since I haven't read Amazing in the past three or four years, I'm afraid I can't comment on that part either.

The suggestion put forward that some letters might be edited or excerpted has some merit. For example, if the day should ever come when you get more letters than you can publish, it might be a good trick to excerpt and publish single paragraphs dealing with a single subject currently under discussion.

Which is enough for this time.

Sincerely. ##

al Lopez Now we hear from
of the Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Penn State College,
State College, Penna. (who asks us to make special mention of his
new address, so that his mail will reach him sooner) letter dated 12 Oct 47:

Ever since I received your letter asking me for something for your new fanzine, I've been planning to write up an article on something that's been on my mind for a long time. However I've been so busy lately I just kept putting it off, and the first thing I know - your mag has arrived, with a new name - "Fandom Speaks!" It isn't quite up to what we'd been led to expect, but everything considered it isn't bad. (It probably would have been bigger if lazy guys like me had come through!)

So McDaniel thinks fans are getting too serious eh? Perhaps if he'd been to the Philcon he wouldn't think so. Just a little item like seeing Jack Speer, Chan Davis, Ron Christensen, and I shooting off fireworks in staid Philly about 4 A.M. (And the cops didn't like it one bit!)

I think if fans ignored the Shaver Mystery it would help it to die a natural death. The very fact that we are fighting against RAP & Co. gives him a basis for rallying his crackpots around him. Nothing like the idea of persecution to draw a group together. As for Guerry Brown, don't forget that Shaver has never offered any proof yet for any of the things he has claimed. The mere fact that he gets a lot of fan letters saying that they too hear voices etc doesn't mean anything. He claims knowledge of caves and people in them who are on our side, how about leading a well armed group to one and give us some real proof? Remember RAP's offer during the war to lead a group into the caves. He asked for single men in good health with no family ties. What a laugh, he knew that any such were in the armed forces and there wouldn't be any to take him up on his offer! You don't see that offer now that there are hundreds of eager men ready to go into the caves! As for the fans doing some investigating, how about all the letters RAP was printing from fictitious people. Wasn't it us fans who exposed that?

Race prejudice, hmmm, there's a topic that

could really start something. The LASFS group should feel pretty cheap if what Moffatt says about the reception given to the Negro is true. On the other hand, a fan group from down south somewhere would be laying themselves wide open for plenty of trouble if they attempted to let Negro fans into their organization. I'm afraid this problem is too much for me.

My vote for the 1950 Rocketmobile goes to Don Wilson.

Since it doesn't appear as if I will get any less busy in the near future I have decided to give up the article idea and just make a few comments in this letter about my original topic. In the October Amazing there is a letter from a fellow named Snell concerning an article previously published about an Electroencephalographic machine (hereinafter abbr EEG). It seems that Snell feels that this machine could be used as one of Shaver's tel-augs to record thoughts for transmission or storage. He also thinks it could be used as the brain charger described in another of Shaver's stories. NAP chuckles and says that the telaug served as an inspiration for the improvements and developments made on the EEG by some supposed Navy technicians. The claim is also made that a person's intelligence is directly proportional to the amplitude of his alpha rythm.

Let's look at some of these statements. First, let's clear up the matter of authority - why I can dispute or deny these claims. It just happens that I spent 18 months in the army as an EEG technician, during which time I ran tests on over a thousand patients. Also, I'm a graduate electronics engineer, if that counts for anything. (Of course Shaver says we don't know anything, yet his space visitors are always kidnapping our technicians!) For the benefit of those of our audience who have never heard of the EEG machine, it is simply a very specially built sensitive radio receiver which picks up low frequency signals by means of small electrodes which are fastened to the head by one of half-dozen different methods. From these electrodes (which are nothing more than special antennas for a localized reception), the signal is passed through the amplifiers and increased in strength about fifty millionfold and then this voltage is used to drive recording pens which make a permanent record on a long roll of paper.

Ordinarily, a normal brain wave recording consists of waves of about 8 to 12 cycles per second, and whose amplitude is constant at anywhere from 10 to 100 microvolts. (One microvolt being one millionth of a volt.) This dominant rythm is called the Alpha rythm. Another type of normal record has no dominant rythm, it consists merely of a low voltage fast waveform with no distinguishable frequency. Before I go any further, I must remark that when I say normal I am speaking only of the physical condition of the brain. A person insane for only mental reasons would have anormal EEG recording. The machine is used to detect cases of epilepsy, brain tumors, and various other diseases of the brain. For example, a brain tumor would be indicated by abnormal waves from the part of the brain in which the tumor was located. Petit mal epilepsy is indicated by 2 or 3 slow waves each followed by a sharp spike, per second, coming from all parts of the brain.

The highest significant frequency recorded on the EEG is about 35 or 40 cycles per second, occuring in grand mal epilepsy. Above this frequency at 60 cps you hit the muscle potentials which are ten or fifteen times as strong as brain waves and blot them out completely - so the machine has filters which limit the frequencies recorded to those below 45 cps.

My EEG record consists of medium amplitude Alpha rythm of about 11 cps. The amplitude is relatively constant, as is the case with most EEG's. What does this mean? Well any radio engineer would say that with constant amplitude there was no amplitude modulation! And with a constant single frequency, there is no frequency modulation! Where then is the modulation which is necessary if intelligence (meaning intelligent signals) is to be transmitted? These aren't the only types of modulation, there is also a pulse modulation. But the brain waves are not pulses, but sine waves.

Another thing, in modern communication, the carrier wave is of much higher frequency than the modulating wave. In the case of the brainwave, we have the supposed carrier wave with a frequency of only 12 cps. The brain modulation wave would have to be of lower frequency than this, and if such existed (as a modulating signal), it would be impossible to carry the amount of intelligence that our thinking implies. That is, audio modulation requires frequencies up to 15000 cps to convey full intelligence; television requires frequencies up to several million cps to convey a picture that will be acceptable to the eye; and therefore thought, which is often considered as a mental picture, must require very high frequencies to convey the full meaning. I'm afraid this job is a little beyond the EEG machine. It's like an African native trying to pick up New York with only the power supply part of a radio. There's just too much lacking.

About the dears being the inspirators of the development of the EEG, I doubt it very much. This machine was developed over a period of 40 or 50 years, by some very staid scientific minds who kept pace with new advances in various scientific fields, applying all possible improvements to this machine. It just happened that the electronic industry was in a good position just before the war to make the machine sensitive enough for some practical use to be made out of it. And so the armed forces grabbed it up and gave it lots of publicity and people got the idea that it was another war time invention. As for Navy improvements, maybe so, but I doubt it. An engineer named A. F. Grass makes the official model for the armed forces, and does so with the understanding that if there are to be any changes or repairs made in the equipment, it goes back to him. Authority for that statement is War Dept. Tech Bulletin TD MED 74, article 4. But as I say, maybe the Navy is different. Perhaps by this time you got the idea that the EEG is used to detect brain peculiarities in the same way that you would

listen to a motor purring to see if it sounds all right. Well that is the idea I've been trying to put across. One more thing. About the matter of a person's IQ being directly proportional to the amplitude of his alpha rhythm, that is a new one on me. As I said, I've only got some 1100 tests to base my conclusions on, and they don't come to that. According to an IQ test I took in 1943, I have an IQ of 150. I graduated from N.U. with honors, and I've always been considered fairly intelligent - and my alpha rhythm is only a weak medium! And there was that semi idiot that I had to promise a discharge to in the army - he had the strongest alpha rhythm I ever saw! (I promised him a discharge so he would keep quiet and take the test.)

All of this doesn't mean however that there is no hope for mind reading machines. In fact I may do some research on the subject for a thesis. But there are a few flies in the ointment. For example, first we have to detect the thought waves - by that I mean obtain some electromagnetic radiation that we can say is definitely due to thought. Next we have to make a receiver which will receive these radiations without distorting their intelligence. This isn't so easy when you think about it. Take your broadcast band receiver. Just that alone would never tell you that there were such things as amateur stations. It takes a pretty complicated receiver to get all the long and short wave A.M. stations. But if you had that, and only FM stations were broadcasting, your complicated radio wouldn't do you much good. Neither an A.M. or F.M. radio would give you any hint of radar signals, nor would you make any sense out of television signals. The requirements for each are so different. Well, what kind of signal is the thought wave - A.M., F.M., Television type, Pulse type, or ??? You can't build your receiver until you know what it is you want to receive, and you don't know what you are looking for until you can pick it up. It's quite a problem. If there are any Deros listening in, they could help a lot by sending me the circuit diagram tonight when I go to bed. I'll be waiting!

Sincerely. ##

John Van Couvering has his say from 10358 S. Downey, Downey Calif. 24 Sept 47:

It's really amazing...oops, mustn't use that word... to think of what can happen in a month's time. Caldwell and Wilson are firm friends... (the lion and the lamb shared a bed...) And, to top it all, I HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE SINE NOMEN FANDOM'S ONLY FUNZINE. Keen, huh?

SN/FOF that is.

Well, since this has ter be controversial, I'll put my two-bits' worth in the raging turmoil. S. Vernon McDaniel has a good point there...I too have noticed the sad lack of all and sundry humor hyar and thar. I hope McSpaniel is cheered up by the notice in the first paragraph. Which is undoubtedly enclosed in quotation marks. What's the slant, eds? You're publishing complete letters, you know, not just quotes therefrom. They don't quote Kuttner's yarns in TWS, do they? Nor van Vogt's in ASF? OK, you get it.

Your format good...in fact excellent. But what did the cover represent? Did itty boy durn pingers pwaying wif wocket?.nafty ole wocket. Tank pank. And what is the assorted crud on ground before him? ((Ask Tom.)) Looks like a Christmas necktie soaked in polka-dot paint, and then strained thru marmalade souffle. What a horrible thought...

On the Shaver deal: Aggeed, it does sound fantastic...but that's probably the only reason they presented it to fandom. Agreed, the stories are not so hot as reading matter either...but my gosh, the instant he opened his mouth every hot-head in fandom jumped in with both feet and with earmuffs on. Seems a little half-cocked for Broad-minded fans. And don't bother to lable me as "pro-Shaver"...I'm certainly not. I dislike reading his junk as well as the next...but Ray Cummings was as bad if not worse, and he wrote some good stuff too...THE MAN ON THE METEOR I think was his best. And as long as Palmer wants to fill his mag with it, that's his business. It certainly didn't hurt his mags circulation anyhow. And then people like Don and Rick r'ared up and roared in a voice of righteous indignation, antagonizing him; catching him in a soft spot with a low blow when he was only trying to up his circ a bit. Palmer was a fan himself before he was an ed, and to have fandom turn against him at a time like that was like having your best friend pound your car with a sledgehammer. The car you had just fixed up to go farther, faster, and smoother, at no slight cost.

I can see 'em now...closing in... they've got me trapped...their dark eyes burning from shadowed, gaunt faces...closer... closer...weakly, I babble, for mercy, for pity, for a quick death...closer, closer draws the eerie, silent circle of black-clad pursuers...one, the tallest, raises a gaunt, red-stained hand...only one word he utters, like the tolling of a death-bell in a far-away, musty tower, under the unresting sea...

"Pre-Shaver!" Sibilantly, their cloaks rustle... steel flashes in the moonlight as their arms swing high...NO! NO! I was only making a controversial letter to FS! I DIDN'T MEAN IT! AAAAAAaaaaaaa.

Well, you see what I mean. Time-bombs in my mail...octapussies in the bathtub...rattlesnakes under my pillow...just for saying maybe Palmer was just trying to put something new into his mag, instead of the accepted theory that he's trying to turn fandom into a bunch of neurotic persecution complexes wandering around looking for caves, bronze tablets, and weird beams of light at the foot of their beds.

Well, Rex, I must sign off. Oh, yes, you too, Jack. Gad how glad I am that I am the only editor for Sine Nomen, which is Fandom's Only Fun-

zine, subs six for a quatah, five centavos apiece. #3 will be dittoed at San Anselmo, will feature artwork by Gordy Cockroft, me, and maybe some others. So for a good laff, send to---AAUWkkkk! Choke! Kaff koff. Pardon me, folks, but I just got a blue pencil in the lagnyx. Well, better luck next time... ##

signs himself dam!, writes from his new address at Box 1367, Memphis, Tenn.

D.A. Mac Innes who

Fandom Speaks! #1 received, read and thoroughly enjoyed. Before I get wound up in one of my favorite subjects, and forget about it, my vote goes to S.V. McDaniel's letter for the best in the issue. All the letters were fine and the editorial well done, although, in my opinion, the duplication job on Jewett's cover could have been done with more painstaking care.

I was glad to see Len Moffatt's letter. He is a man after my own heart. By all means, go on including controversial subjects other than science fiction and fantasy in FS. It makes for more variety and interest. Len's opinions on prejudice are shared by myself (see DISCOURSE WITH GOLDBERG in Necromancer #1) and I'm sure by many other fan. I was particularly interested in his remark which stated that fans above all should be above any sort of racial prejudices. I have always held fandom, active or otherwise, head and shoulders above the average intelligent being. A normal person, although intelligent, very often does not seem to have the power to reason things out for himself. He has depended on the teachings of others and accepted in all gullibility these teachings without question in many instances. Evidence of this, of course, would be the variety of religions, and the inane superstitious beliefs incorporated in their doctrines. Fans, on the other hand, surely must possess, to some extent, the power of reason. If we blindly accepted the banal trivialities of convention and the often extreme "truths" laid down by the various religious groups, we would not, to my way of thinking, take such delight in our favorite type of literature. Ergo, if a fan can reason for himself, a prejudice toward any of his fellow beings as a race is highly unlikely.

Living where I do, among the popcorn eaters and horse-opera enthusiasts, I have many an opportunity to observe at first hand prejudices held against one particular race of people. Ignorance, of course, is the primary factor involved, but even if ignorance were conquered, hate would still run rampant in many because they were brought up with it and did not think and reason for themselves.

A very good case in point would be fan Lionel Inman of Ripley, Tennessee who is well known throughout fandom. Lionel, although brought up with intolerance and hatred on all sides, today has no racial prejudice whatsoever. He had a great deal to overcome, but, because he could reason for himself, he did overcome it.

So, I repeat, Moffatt's statement that fan, more than any, should be sans racial hatred holds water in my chamber pot. What do you others think?

Sincerely, ##

is next, writing on the 12th of Oct. His address: NATS, VR-8, Bx 53, Honolulu, Oahu TH, c/o F.P.O., San Francisco, Cal.

Ed D. Lezh

Not having a gripe about anything in particular nor any legitimate reason to do so, I'll try to take your FS #1 as I come to it and attempt to add something to what I consider a fairly GOOD THING.

The death of VOM didn't mean as much to me as it did to most since I came in late and probably have seen a total of 6 issues altogether. (The most it meant to me was the anticipation of a certain sexy litho of the sexless sylph etc from THE WORLD BELOW - which turned out to be an anticlimax).-So your (as yet) little 'zine will stand on its own merits so far as I am concerned. I like the idea of FS and hope it becomes guilty of both real worth and longevity.

To the letters: there is practically a three-way tie, but I will place McDaniel first, Moffatt second and Carter third.

McDaniel has an excellent point: Fandom seems to be trying too hard to outgrow its youth -- there seem to be visible signs of senility already. I am just an interested observer, but it really seems that those outside FAPA are having lean times. Will the places of LeZ and The (Loni) Acolyte ever be filled? ((And VOM?))

Now it will only require that McDaniel issues a fanzine himself to prove his point in earnest rather than in humor.

Moffatt, whose thesis is entirely different from the above, has my sentiments exactly. His "Prejudice against prejudice" is rather muddly, but the meaning is clear. Subject attitude (race-prejudice) is only one of the many "unsane" factors too prevalent today and which make the "whitherers" despair. These "unsanities" possibly account in part for such a preponderance of "world destruction" stories by StF authors. Am I right there?

I agree with Lezh 99 44/100% and would like to see a proper answer to his query (re-phrased slightly): "Are fans people who think?" I suspect that an accurate survey of fandom would show less to our credit than we like.

Lin Carter's idea developed (by FFoundation, for a better in-

A TRIO OF TWO DOLLAR MUSTS:

Austin Hall's

PEOPLE OF THE COMET

Ed Earl Rapp's

RADIUM POOL

Ralph Milne Farley's

RADIO MAN

A \$2.50 Special (first 250 copies doubly autographed)

OUT OF THE
UNKNOWN

By A. E. van Vogt and E. Wayne Hull

\$3 Thrillers:

DEATH'S DEPUTY

THE SUNKEN WORLD

"TWO BY TAINÉ"

— AND OTHERS

Order today!

Catalog Free
on Request.

FANTASY Publishing Co. (Inc.),
9318-20 Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles 3, Cal.

stance) would probably enrich fandom ten-fold. The fan who has not the facilities to publish would take advantage of it and the many passifans like myself interjecting an occasional one- or two-shot rag would save many hidden talents from limbo. A "cast-plus" plan would ~~also~~ pay for both advertising and distribution (both by the Foundation?). Oh, 4e-with-the-Foundation, don't let such an idea go to waste!!

For D. Wilson's benefit: the whole haveRap tempest (including Lemurian origins) has left me cold. I think this is more or less an echo of RaP, but: Is there sufficient reason that fandom should try to force its esthetic opinions on Palmer or Ziff Davis. A less loosely organized fandom might formulate an intelligent resolution stating its majority views to RaP - and that is all I would allow it. RIP RaP!

I've said enough.

Definitely! ##

Sam Moskowitz says briefly:

Your successor to "Voice of the Imagi-Nation", "Fandom Speaks!" received. Thanks very much for sending me a trial copy. I'll try a few more and see how they suit me.

The one suggestion I would like to make is that you publish or rather print your text in a larger type face. Frankly its a strain on the eyes reading that size typewriter type in mimeographed reproduction, and I'd be satisfied with less text and easier reading.

Best Wishes. ##

Billie Lee Randolph, from

554 Tidden Ave. LA 34, Cal. says 20 Oct 47:

No-one seems to be able to agree whether the Shaver Mystery is a hoax or not, but most of the active fans seem to think it's an advertising, money-making scheme.

I know that I do not let this silly stuff in the letter column interfere with my enjoyment of the reading material. After finishing the stories, I read that bunk, and get a good laugh out of it.

I don't deny that the discovery of caves is false, there may be many such, but the idea of dero and those things is arrant nonsense.

Some people may be actually deluded into actually believing this, and persuade themselves that they experienced these strange things. But everyone believes in the power of suggestion, more or less, and I believe this is the explanation of most of the letters in Amazing.

Shaver and Palmer probably started this rumor and relied on the gullible public to carry the ball along. Also the mysterious Flying Discs helped the thing farther.

I want to say, in conclusion, that the Shaver Mystery is only helped along by all this comment, but it doesn't bother me to be labeled "Traitor". Heh, heh.

Sincerely. ##

Timothy Oros
land St. Cam-

(What a signature!) speaks from 5 Cleveland St. Mass. 4 Oct 47:

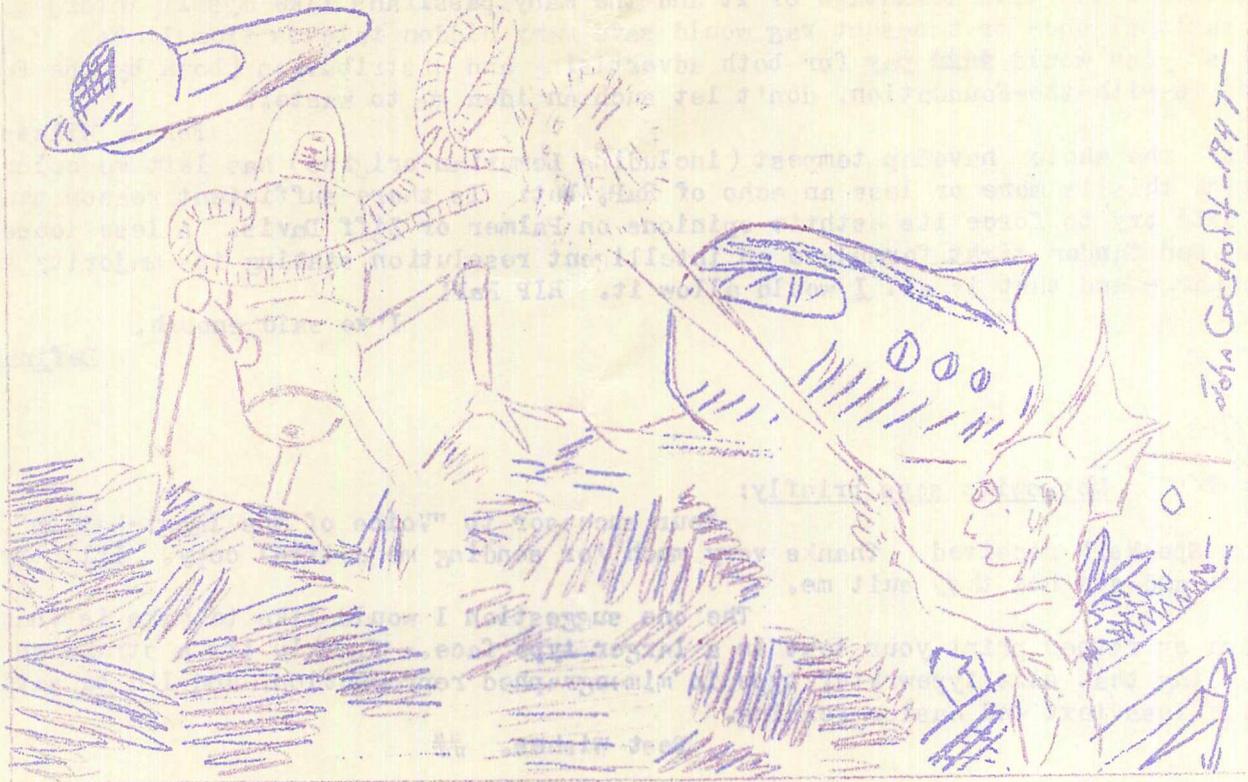
In the beginning, as my astounded brain first comprehended the tremendous breadth and depths, and, once in a long while, heights, which engulfed fandomania, I decided that I would subscribe to one good magazine of stories, one good letterzine, and to any others which were forced upon me by close association with the editor or some other situation. Thus, as you have so kindly sent to me Fandmsps (ugh! I hate those contractions), I am taking this opportunity to subscribe! Enclosed you will find a dollar. Presumably, if fandom sours upon me, I can stand it for a year. Monthlies are too expensive. With almost any other type, I could pay a dollar and expect to receive to receive copies (or my money back) for the rest of my natural life.

As for the best letter? Guerry Brown has far and away the best comments on Shaver Mystery, when he says that we are entitled to our private opinions, but what can fandom do about it anyway? S.V. Mc Daniel on the dying out of the Elder Fans (Club Club) was amusing and quite correct. After all, it is the privilege of geniuses (or should I say geni) to be mad in certain ways, at least. Mc Daniel wins on letterstyle.

Incidentally, A stenciled cover can be improved by letting the author scribble direct--yah! It can be done, and it gives the superior pattern the master's touch. (boost for Jewett) Incidentally, what is happening to the poor guy? (on the cover of October)

'Tis my thought that if one has a dislike for deros, then one doesn't need to read Amazing Stories. I never do, in spite of Don Wilson's comments, "AS has come up quite a bit recently", I don't think I've missed anything. I have trouble enough being philosophical about A-Science Fiction's atomic war pattern without going to other pros.

This is short enough to be worth reading. Erge.



I shall stop here;

(no sign-off) ##

George F. Caldwell Jr.

(they're getting worse!)

drops us a few lines from 1115 San Anselmo Ave. San Anselmo, Cal. 7 Oct 47.

I'll skip all comments on your mag, except to say it's good and go right on to the subject at hand. Caldwell v. Sneary and Wilson.

I feel in the first place that Sneary has done me a great wrong in putting my "mercenary" tenderness before everything else. For the information of one Rick Sneary I have never said anything about a personal loss of originals due to the action against RAP. I said it was a damn shame that fandom had to lose the support of an active interested party like the Z-D pub. co. just because some people think with their feet instead of their heads. I used the YF originals as an example of how RAP help was lost. I have not, and this fact can be substantiated by the Cocroft brothers Gordon & John, kept out one original for myself, they have all gone or are going to the members of YF. What do you say about that, Rick? Also since when is it called "crawling in hopes for a bone" when a person sticks up for a friend who is falsely accused. I have done just that. Rap is my friend, as such I consider it my duty, no privilege, to defend him. As much as I would you, or friend Sneary if any unfair attacks were made against you.

I think that the above will squelch the veritable Mr. Sneary, who has in the past said that anyone who sticks up for Rap must have no self-respect. He also said he knows some who do stick up for Rap and they don't have any. This is a definite slur against my character and as such I resent it. I realize that Rick was speaking impersonally but just why does he say I have no self-respect. I have in my possession a small typewritten, partially burned (on purpose) little missive that Rick sent me. It concerns a sex mad guy and a girl--Rick burned it in appropriate places but it was still readable. Self respect. Huh?

I find Don Wilson a much more satisfactory opponent than Rick, maybe this is because Don and I have already thrashed it out in personal letters. However, I will defend myself from some of the remarks he made.

Don says I spoke for Young Fandom. I did not, no more than he claims he did not speak for fandom. Anyone with a copy of Lunacy can assure himself of that. At the end I made a nebulous remark about "us". I was not referring to YF, but to those who felt about this Shaver Kystery as I do.

I seem to have turned all attacks off myself this time and I invite Don and Rick to try again. Not only does it afford me with some priceless humor (in these expensive times) but it livens up a zine to have a good feud in it.

Incidentally (plug coming) the forthcoming issue of Lunacy is going to have about 7 or 8 letters concerning that editorial I wrote about Don Wilson. It's going to be quite a thing. I used every one I got and guess who was in the minority of favor? Maybe you're right and maybe you're wrong.

Well, I'm about worn out from the terrific amount of will-power I had to exercise in writing the

above. After all, how many reams of paper do you want me to "burn up"?

I'm afraid this letter which was to be a scorching defense of Rap has turned into a defense of GFC. But as for Rap I'll say this. I'm for him until he's proven guilty. In this land of freedom (?) a man is assumed innocent until proven guilty, at least I always thought so and Rap on basis of evidence sworn against him is as spotless as a new-born babe--how many of you can say the same?

Well I tried my best to insult everyone, will be back next time with bigger and better ones.

"To Hell With Fandom"
we're a bunch of louses.

Antagonistically yours. ##

Joe

(aka Joe Kennedy) favors us with one of his inimitable missives from 84 Baker Ave, Dover NJ, 4 Oct 47:

One of the most cheering items to hit my mailbox in -- lo! -- numberless moons was the first issue of FANDOM SPEAKS. You really managed to cram the mag with live-wire, absorbing stuff from page one to the back cover! Really an enjoyable job, neatly produced, too. To say the very least, FS is a worthy successor to VOM -- it even captures some of the hard-to-define spirit of that memorable letterzine, altho the contributors are different. VOICE OF THE IMAGINATION was the kind of a fanzine that you sit down and read thru completely with a great deal of pleasure; there was nearly always something to make you stop and think. Whether or not you agreed with the letter-writers, and even the blamed little of the contents page within a light-year of being "deathless prose", VOM was inevitably a heck of a lot of fun. FANDOM SPEAKS, I think, is that kind of fanzine too.

The mag seems just about the right size for comfortable reading as is, and litho covers are an expensive felderol -- so this fan will be well content if future issues keep up to the top-notch standard set with issue #1.

S. V. McDaniel's missive was a dazzling tour de force! He's got my vote for top letter of the issue, with Don Wilson a close second. Stfandom definately could use a shot in the arm. During the twelve months following the Pacificen, I think post-war fan activity hit its lowest ebb, with the decline of the NFFF, growing discontent in LA (which had been stf's mecca during the war years), the faltering of FAPA, and the slackening-off in the fan publishing field. This may have been, to use a slightly shakey generalization, just the backwash of disillusionment which hit the whole country right after Operation A-Bomb. You could see it's effects everywhere -- not only in the stfield. GI's were shot back into civvies in hundreds of thousands at a clip, with attendant difficulties for them to re-adjust their outlooks so suddenly, and for civiliandom to be prepared for 'em. Lack of housing. Food shortages. Inadequate school facilities. These were the results. Also giving political big-wheels a chance to bolster their popularity, the nation abandoned wartime checks like rationing and price ceilings a bit too suddenly. Result: a beautiful, rapidly-swelling case of inflation. And there it was. The peace we'd all looked forward to since '41. And a damned disappointing peace it was. The rosy dreams which had kept a nation fighting for four years went POP all of a sudden -- like the pretty, substanceless bubbles that they were.

Same way in fandom. During the war, fans bolstered morale (which took a beating when ASTONISHING, SUPER SCIENCE, SF, and all the rest disappeared from the stands, and others published less frequently) by thinking of the glorious renaissance of science-fiction which the end of World War II would bring. "There'll be prozines galore ... dozens of new fan projects ... terrific new authors ..." So we thought five years ago. Everybody knows that the gala return of stf which we'd been droolingly awaiting -- just didn't come. So it seems to me that the cynical to-hell-with-everything attitude which hit actifandom in late '46-early '47 isn't hard to understand.

Since the Philcon, tho, fanning seems to be picking up. Promising new fan mags are appearing, and gaining prestige (2000 AD, DREAM QUEST, SPAC-TEER, LOXYGEN, FANDOM SPEAKS, etc.). New proz are no longer mere dreams. I sincerely believe that '48 will be a boom year for actifanning; maybe the old guard will be taking a backseat, but the brand-new fans should be blazing new trails e'er stf's horizon. Gads, how poetic. Ah, well....

Rick Sneary's communique was of interest as usual. Young Fandom is an organization which seems to get remarkably little publicity. How come, fellers?? .. As for Tom Jewett's fear that "RAP could if he wanted ruin fandom", I'm inclined to be skeptical. I don't believe there are many promising recruits for active fandom among the devotees of the Shaver tripe; nor does it seem likely that other prozine editors would exile fans from their reader-sections, following Palmer's example -- I strongly suspect that Ierwin, Campbell, Gnaedinger, and Payne have very little sympathy for AMAZING. The fact that RAP's donation of originals to Young Fandom helped turn George Caldwell into an apostle of AMAZING STORIES somewhat lowers this 'umble one's personal estimation of Jawge's intelligence.

Is Ray Palmer sincere in his support of Shaveriana? I'm danged if I knew -- but one thing's certain. Ray is sure as hell raking in the greenbacks by the balos! Here in the east, many fans are thoroughly sick of hearing about the whole thing. Every attempt to pass anti-Shaver resolutions in fan clubs and conventions has failed. Why? Because

East-coast fans like Shaver? Hardly. But most guys around here refuse to take the thing seriously. They point out that arguments and resolutions are futile, that whatever actifans say, the Shaver saga will rumble onward anyway. They point out that professional writers don't want to support the anti-Shaver campaigns, for fear of ruining their chances of selling to Z-D (however slim those chances are these days, with AS-FA badly overstocked, from all reports). They point out that Shaver and Palmer have every right to say what they danged well please. They point out that sects and pseudo-prophets thrive on persecution. They point out that actifan campaigns against Z-D would only give Rap more publicity. They argue that Z-D might attempt legal action against fan opposition. All over the eastern seaboard, fans are so completely bored and disgusted with Shaverism and anti-Shaverism that they'd rather just forget the whole thing than plunge into fiery arguments with fellow fantasists.

Jack Speer at the Philcon pointed out that passing a resolution against Shaver might not be completely futile. Speer argued that such a resolution would give literate writers (such as Baring-Gould of Harper's fame) something to quote in order to prove that organized actifandom dislikes AMAZING! In any event, an actifan campaign against Shaver seems highly unlikely. For what fan believes fanatically enough in the sanctity of science-fiction to undertake a long, tedious, weary, and bitter fight against Z-D -- a fight which might possibly have costly and devastating legal repercussions -- sheerly out of devotion to a hobby? It would be much more profitable and constructive, if you're an ultra-idealist, to attack astrology, occultism, and other baloney-dispensers.

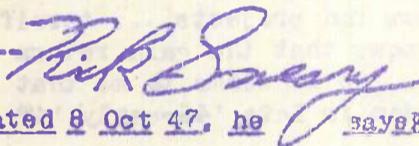
Leave us tilt an eyebrow in Guerry Brown's direction for the observation, "There hasn't been one single thing about the Shaver Mystery that has been proven false by actifans?" Possibly Guerry never read Tom Gardner's authoritative dissections of the scientific blunders in the Shaveruptions in FANTASY COMMENTATOR. Gardner, one of the nations more prominent scientists, and a Ph. D. at that, blasted bloody heck out of some of Shaver's pet delusions. But even so, Guerry, you don't accept a thing because it hasn't been proven false! Not unless you subscribe to the Palmer theory that "only a fool would refuse to accept a thing until it has been proven" philosophy! If this is the case, I hereby proclaim that I am the living reincarnation of the Great Buddha, ruler of a race of seven-tentacled grulzake living in the swamps of Mums -- AND I LEFY YOU TO PROVE ME WRONG!! And there've been cases of fans influencing prozine policy. The Wollheim suit of WONDER STORIES was a contributing factor to the mag's switching publishers. One of the reasons SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES collapsed was that active fans weren't interested enough in the mag to send in comments. Ask Lowmes. And, more recently, Sam Herwin has been sensitive of fan opinions -- the criticism "Sarge Saturn" received at the ESFA, and from fan mail, led to the downfall of the keno-guzzling space dog.

Lin Carter's suggestion of a fanzine-publishing bureau is intriguing. But who's gonna do all the work of mimeoing and stencilling, if the mag's editor won't? Most fan publishers prefer to do their own stencilling and duplicating -- unless they lack typewriters and mimeos. But typers can be rented quite reasonably in most towns. As for mimeoing -- mebbe the NFFF could solicit volunteers with mimeos to run off stencils for duplicatorless members. What think?

A twenty raygun salute to Len Moffatt's swell commentary on the stupidity of racial prejudice. The only thing I can say is that I'm heartily in agreement with Len's sentiments. And so ends a missive which should've ended long before this!

Sincerely, ##

"The Sage of
South Gate"--



returns!

With an unedited letter at last! In a letter dated 8 Oct 47, he says:

Well, nice cover, I think the shadow should be a little darker. But outside of that it was fine.

Frankly S.V. Daniel was a little confusing. Are fans stupid and dieing out or brainy and destand to rule the world. Well anyway he did speak a few words of wisdom. This Koster in human form that insist on hiding behind a bush all the time is trying to tear down the past. Down with Willmorth. Down with him and his cry "beer is the only true ghod". Arise all you belivers in the might of the great FoeFoo. Yaa, even you lowly and groveling belivers in that other false religion ghughu, you to arise. In this time of crices we must forget our comman hatred and band together and sweep the belivers of bearnomia to the farthest reaches of infant space. Arise, I say, and fight. Let are mity weapons Poe and yobber be turned on this beening and his followers.

Koffet

says something about Ackerman (All Hail) bringing a negre-fan to the club and the members cold-shouldered him. I hope some one who knows answers this. I'd like to know if they really are as low as that. Ofcourse some of the things fandom is hearing nowadays about the LASFS would seem to back it up. It is to bad in a way, that we can't take test to see who should called fans. There seems to be a lot that call themself fans that aren't.

Well it is Oct., and we that are in the NFFF will be finding out who is running for what. Carlsen tells me he has at last found someone to put out the G-C. So the platforms for fan running for office will get out. (Let us all hope anyway.)

I needn't mention that it will be the first copy of that club zine since early Spring. (Braking a Constitutional law.) Ofcourse I don't have to tell you who is to blame. Widner did a poor job as Sec. Tres. and no job at all as Pres. It seems to be the only idea started this year. Fantasy Aspects, (Fandoms Readers Digest) has failed after one issue. This idea has some merit for the new fan that hasn't been able to get all the zines yet. Also for the busy fan that can't read all the zines he gets. But as it cost the club \$20... Well I hardly think it worth it.

Another thing, when is the NFFF going to get tough about the money that is owed it. From one old Sec. that took the money with him, and a nother fan that still owes the club \$40 or so. Friendship is fine, but the club is for all.

One can not put all the blame on Widner tho. Tho he didn't do anything, I haven't heard that he stoped any one elce. And as the V-P and Directors last year had a lot to say, and do, I don't see why they couldn't this year. As Dunk says. Last year the idea seemed to be to get old tried fans into office. Ha. It seems they all were so old they sleep all year. How about some new blood this year.

Allright, so this is a campaign speech, is there anything wrong with that. When fans aren't interested enough to campaign, no wonder they don't do anything in office. Yeah, I want to be a Director. And by darn I'll be the best Director I can, or you well knew the reason why. I happen to catch cold like a dog does fleas, and so I spend most of my time at home. I'll have time to do any amount of work the office will demand. And I'll personally answer to any fan that don't like the way things are beeing done.

All I ask is you put me in, and give me a good guy like Dale Tarr to work under. And if the NFFF don't do something in 48, will I'll be happy to resign and move to San Francisco. ##

(Chandler Davis) postcards 7 Oct 47 from Perkins 76, Cambridge 38 Mass:

Must report myself somewhat taken aback by Moffatt's statement that LASFS cold-shouldered a visitor for reasons of race. One of the Strangers Club's droppers-around is colored; in my memory no one has "discriminated" against him at all. I've always assumed the race-hate boys to be very rare in fandom. If this is correct, no crusade is required to keep them in check. Just let the biggots know that there are no persecuted minorities in fandom unless they (the biggots) make themselves one. ##

able to clear that statement of Moffatt's up. Here's a man who should be

Louise G. Sturman

from Bx 6151 Met Stn, LA 55, says on 6 Oct 47:

It is with a rather indescribable feeling that I regard FANDOM SPEAKS! #1. It is difficult to consider it as the beginning of a new mag, it seems so much like the continuation of an old one with which I was intimately concernd for 50 issues. It seems like a VOM #51 had somehow come out in my sleep! If U are not careful about so faithfully reproducing the style of my former mag, my former subscribers may think I have simply adopted a new pseudonym. Imagine being mistaken for Ackerman. A fate, as the bankrupt fan bemoand, worse than debt.

All kidding aside, it is quite encouraging to me that someone felt the VOM idea should not simply be forgotten when I tired of pumping the bellows that made the Vox pop forth periodically. No one was more surprised--or pleased--than I to learn that U were playing Phoenix after I thot finis had been written to the original letterzine.

It's a new rôle for me--contributor rather than editor. To respond to a direct inquiry made by Len Moffatt in the course of his laudable lambasting of race prejudice (he askt me to correct him if he were wrong in believing that I once introduced a Negro fan to the members of the LASFS, with results unbecoming to fans): No, Len, this did not take place--what you are undoubtedly thinking about, or have heard about, is an article by me publisht by Nova Press for FAPA in the Summer of '44. At Ft MacArthur I had met a colored servifan, and I wrote.

"In the near future I intend to inform the LASFS of my discovery of this Negro fan, and ask if the club would have any objection to my inviting him to meetings. I do not expect opposition. Should opposition arise, I'd be aroused--dammit it to hell, I can promise you I'd be so boiling mad I'd be ready to make an issue of it then and there: Either we admit this fan ozi go! But that would be melodramatic and unproductive of the desired result. Conceivably, if I do not flatter myself, there would be capitulation. But certainly it would be begrudged. I shouldn't want that. But I prefer to prophesy that when the time comes the members will rather think it a little odd of me to question that they might raise any objection, as tho I should know better. In that case I shall be very proud indeed of the fangeleses."

The colored fan left camp before the crisis, if any, was precipitated.

But fandom has had a shame in its midst for several years, a shame of just this character (or lack of it!) A certain fan I have known thru correspondence for some time, and only recently met, has (quite un-

known to the fan, I presume--I trust!) been discriminated against purely on the suspicion that they might be colored! Every once in a while, in the past, I have met a fan from this place (where plenty of face-to-face fan activity has gone on) and I have inquired, "Have U ever met so-&-so?" They invariably say no, and on a couple occasions, after shaking my head and puzzling aloud as to why such a fan should not be contacted, I have been informed, "Well, uh, you see, their address is sort of in a district where colored people live, and we thought that--" How do you like that?? Condemned without a trial! Never invited to fan gatherings because of a belief they might be black! And they are as white as the black thots that have been thot about them! (This could happen to U, don't forget.)

And what if they were black? I will repeat what I said 3 years ago: As science fiction fans, I presume we would embrace and welcome as a brother a "man" from across space or time, be he 8 feet tall with green scales, tentacles and 4 eyes, or a bloated brain sustained by a helium skin-sac. Any amicable conception of Paul, Bek, or Finlay, no matter how repellent a monstrosity, would be greeted and treated like a friend --like Kinnison and Worsel, for example. Why, then, should we balk at a specimen of homo sapiens pigmented black?

Sincerely. ##

Don Wilson, FS's most faithful letter-writer thus far (he hasn't missed an issue yet, and says he won't) steps forth again from 495 N Third St, Banning, Cal, 15 Oct 47:

FS #2 is here, already, so here we go again. Won't comment on (that was habit -- have been dummied stuff for Stein) on the earliness of the mag -- I've ceased being amazed by your productivity, so I'll just say congratulations and let it go at that.

Cover was beautiful. Make sure you keep on having Gordon's artwork. This one reminded me of some artist or other's style, but I can't remember just which one offhand. Swell pic, anyway.

Editorial entertaining. To the letters, which after all is FS---Slavin's letter was different, as you say, but only treated as a letter. If it had been run in any "meet the author" column it wouldn't have been so different. Conner's idea, while it might seduce readers away from the comicbooks, wouldn't do much for stf, because it would drag the stfzines down to comic-book level, and I doubt if many fans would want THAT. Not that some of the mags aren't right down there already, but to do it to the whole field would be sort of a letdown after all the strides stf has made so far.

I don't see what made "Witch of the Andes" so much better than the rest of Shaver's fiction. Hudson seems to think the absence of the usual Shaver devices -- talaus, caves, dero, rays -- made the tale good. Does subject matter really make so much difference? Could Ray Cummings, for example, make a good story just by leaving out Tubby? I doubt it. Like Campbell says, any idea, no matter how wonderful, in the hands of a bad author makes a story stinke. And Shaver certainly is a bad author. Witch seemed one of his poorer efforts, at least to me. Have you read RED DWARF, Les? // And Hudson does an about-face by condemning the Rog Phillips stories because they were overweighted with theories. Seems to me like RPG writes fine stories, theories or no theories, and the theories add to the story. His only defect thus far has been letting the idea that an idea can make a story get the best of him, the that hasn't been a serious fault, because he has enough writing talent to make his stuff sound plausible even with a minimum of polishing and "Handling". There are lots of worse things to discuss than the latest FA; take the latest Planet, Weird ---.

Moffatt's idea of how stfzines get in a rut probably is just about how it happens. Everybody concerned puts the blame off onto somebody else. Wish somebody would can the oft-repeated idea (by authors) that editors don't want good stuff.

At the risk of incurring the enmity of a lot of characters, I'll venture to agree with Laney about Rick. I never did agree with Merwin about letting Rick's letters stand uncorrected -- while faintly amusing at first, it soon grows trite, and Rick doesn't WANT to write that way. His readers will grow to expect bad spelling, look for bad spelling AND FOR NOTHING ELSE; hence the thots in his stuff will be lost on their audience. Wish all eds, pro and fan, would adopt the policy of correcting his spelling, grammar. I don't think it would be any more work--in fact, it's harder for me to reproduce the errors exactly like they're made, than it is to automatically correct them while typing the stuff off. Oh, well -- lots of fen make as many errors, and not half so entertainingly!

Laney's comparison between JWC and Rap -- the case isn't entirely the same, because Rap took over a mag just gasping its last rattle, while Astounding was well-established when Campbell took it over. Tremaine had the salvage work to do in that case. And it seems to me that it would be easier to take an already-established magazine and alter it the way you want, than to take a mag in the last stages of decay and rebuild it in a short time into a leader of the field. In that alone, RAP deserves a lot of credit. Aside from that, tho, the comparison is apt, because they took over their respective zines at almost the same time, and it is possible to trace their varying courses since. Each founded companion fan-mags at the same time, too, to make the comparison even more called-for.

I would have agreed with Boggs a short time ago, but now I'm not so sure, if only for the reason that AS prints much better fiction than Planet. And if a mag prints good fiction, I'm willing to disregard the "air" of the thing -- for the purpose of my buying a stf-

zine is to read the fiction inside. I've become sufficiently inured to the editorial side of it by this time to no longer allow it to interfere with my enjoyment of the fiction, but a year ago, as I say, it was different. I have never liked any phase of occultism and allied mental ill-health.

So to Cockroft, who manages to combine good sense with a fine way of saying his ideas. The pic detracted from the continuity -- 'twas an effort to skip from one side of the thing to the other in the midst of a line. The pic would have been improved a lot by a brassiere or breast-plate. ' I doubt if it hurts the "scavengers of fandom" any to call them names. The quickest way to negate the name callers is to out do them by salutes or constructive fan-activity. If Cockroft wants to help get rid of the scavengers, let him work at fandom and become constructive, and cease griping. 'I admit that some aspects of fandom could stand cleaning up; the present leadership of the NFFF is shortly due to end its term, which is good; the Lancy expose of LA fandom is good; the influx of new fans and fanzines, none of them cursed with the "gone-to-seed" flavor; all of this is contributing to fandom's welfare, and I predict that in a year or so the deadwood will be trimmed off, and fandom will again become something constructive. One thing -- gripes are better than continuous snoozing. ' As for Shaveritis, there I agree with Cockroft. No new ideas are being introduced on the subject. As long as the controversy was new, fresh, with space for new ideas and such, it was good for fandom. But war in fandom is an ill wind that blows nobody good, to coin a phrase. And when the Shaveritis reached the status of a major war, then should have been -- is -- the time to call it quits.

The Shaver Mystery in AS has now reached the status of a minor facet. Of course, DISCUSSIONS is still filled up with Shaver letters, but we can get along without a fan-letter column, and many of the letters are interesting. Too many of the woman-occultist type still write, but there are enough who aren't to keep the column on the level of sanity. And yet you must admit that its discussions are more meaty than fangab, insulting the ancestry of cover artists, pointing out "scientific" "errors" in the stories ala Sigler, and the like. Even if I'm not interested in the material being discussed in most cases, I can't condemn the letter column entirely merely because of its present nature.

And -- here's the point -- once you get out of the letter column, you find that the Shaver Mystery is almost lacking! The "oddity" articles and fillers are seldom related to things Shaveristic, and many of them, such as Hansen's geology and "Space Ships Limited", plus occasional Fortean and related material, are worthwhile in the extreme. The editorial occasionally is interesting, altho I will cheerfully admit (or charge, whichever you prefer) that Rap pounces too much on "proofs" of the Shavermystery from wherever and whenever. Stories--definitely stf. by Wilcox, Sherman, Hamilton, Phillips. Shaver still has a story now and then, but they aren't often, and most of them are shorts -- which occasionally are good. Amazing's covers are among the best in the entire field. And, to make it just perfect, there is soon to be a fanzine column!

Did you read in the November editorial, where Rap apologized to fandom? Well, I'll tell you this -- Roger P. Graham, author of "So Shall Ye Reap" and a number of unorthodox scientific theories, informed me in a recent letter that that apology was due to A LETTER WHICH I WROTE GRAHAM, and which RPG showed to Rap! Now, he seems to be in a good mood -- Rap, I mean. It would seem as if the right thing to do now would be to cease our ravings. I also have it from Graham that Rap intends putting in a column of fanzine reviews soon. (At this point, the editors feel it necessary to break in. By now the special supplement to this magazine has no doubt reached all readers. The news of Amazing's proposed fan column is now probably quite well-known to everyone. Its origin (Wilson's letter to RPG) has been explained in the letter by Phillips in the supplement. It would be superfluous to reproduce Lon's letter here telling in detail the facts of the column; all that has been explained in the supplement. So that paragraph has been partially deleted. He continues--)

So why condemn Amazing or Shaver?? Shaver has been run into the ground. As far as I'm concerned, he is a dead issue. I've gotten to the point where, far from urging anti-Rap legislation, I'd cheerfully shoot anybody proposing it. There will still be antiRaps in our midst of course -- but Lord, there are fans who hate ASF and Campbell!

Probably as much wordage dealing with Shaver has appeared in the fanzines as in AS. Most of it has been, of course, derogatory. Think of all the space used up that could have been used in constructive discussion that would benefit us all!!! So let's, please, quit wasting space. Arguments should eventually reach an end -- the end usually being a decision. We can't reach decision on this particular subject -- so let's quit gabbing, and let Geier and Rap produce the proofs and decisions for us. And, above all, let's not produce any more anti-AS resolutions! Or do you guys WANT to make sure Rap cans that fanzine column before it's ever published?? (I had planned on taking issue with JFS over the reasons for his Philcon resolution as printed in Tympani, but this is a good spot to quit.)

Which is enough of that. Martin has a point about letter-writing. FS should provide more than the necessary vehicle for discussion, due to frequent appearance, among other things; by the way, I trust you were merely joking when you said "when one is about to drop fandom himself, he doesn't condemn someone else for doing it." ((Yes.)) If you drop fandom, I'll shoot you. You think I'm kidding?

This brings us to the end. Have about twenty letters on my desk unanswered -- long ones from Spear, Rapp, (Art,) Sneary, and lots of other characters --

as I'll close now. Please you aren't ever going to quit either fandom or FS. ##

And a

later letter, received yesterday, from Don: (Written 28 Oct 47)

The supplement to FS arrived this morning, with the open letters to fandom by Forrest J Ackerman and Rog Phillips. Now here's MY open letter to fandom.

I had already read the letter by Ackerman; he, for some "reason" known probably only to himself, sent a carbon of his letter to Don Day of Portland, with the instructions that it be forwarded to me. Don forwarded the letter; I won't comment on the oddness of Ack's sending the carbon clear to Portland to be forwarded to me; my only point in this paragraph is to reassure you that I'd already read the letter, one day ago, and I've been thinking over the lousy mess ever since. Just to reassure that these remarks aren't made up in the of the moment, but that I've been considering them for a whole day now. I'll try not to say anything I might regret later.

The principal point of Ackerman's letter seems to be something like this -- "Publicity in Amazing Stories would be bad for fandom." It is this point against which I'll argue. Ackerman starts off his letter with a mention of his rating on the Philcon poll; obviously this is fine propagandist technique, good for favorably impressing those who believe a poll is an indication of true worth to fandom. No, I'm not saying it's not. I'm saying not saying that a poll isn't a true indication of worth; in a group like fandom, popularity could safely be said to be a good indication of worth. So that isn't so bad. But the next thing he brings in is his defense of the Negroes, with the assertion that "there will probably go my southern constituents", which is again obviously a propagandist device to enlist the aid and support of those who, like Ackerman (and myself), are in sympathy with the Negroes. Point two. Ackerman has now put himself in a favorable light with the believers-in-polls and those sympathetic toward Negroes. I have no idea what those "other shocking social outcasts" might be, but, since he is in Los Angeles, they may be homosexuals. But that's beside the point.

"A couple months ago we...were in no uncertain terms defamed as adolescent, short-pantsed sons-of-bitches..." and I take all the credit for that myself. I wrote Palmer and classified a remark of his as untrue misrepresentation, cheap rottenness, and part of a vicious campaign to smear sfandom in the eyes of his crackpot readers. He interpreted the word "sfandom" as an indication that I was an actfan myself, which I wasn't at the time by any stretch of the imagination, my fanaticism having consisted of receiving a few Vampires and Advertisers and writing an incredibly stupid letter. Well, the result of this outburst was the now-infamous Vampletter, under which I put in my 2¢ in the form of an earnest plea for fandom to declare itself against Ray, the reason being the dirty names fandom was called.

At the moment I had supposed that all, or nearly all, fans would be in favor of such action. But to the contrary, many of them, (perhaps a majority) were all against it, their reasons ranging from calm statements that such actions would be bad for fandom to violent pro-Shaver outbursts. But the important thing was that MANY MEMBERS OF FANDOM WERE IN FAVOR OF KEEPING PEACE WITH RAP AND AMAZING.

And I'd like to point out that such a state of affairs certainly does not back up Ackerman's statement that fandom is at war with what he so dramatically calls "Nameless Stories."

I want to ask Ackerman, what conceivable good can it do fandom to refuse support from Amazing? Forrest's principal objection seems to be on the grounds that Palmer is insincere, and is out for profit. This may be the case, and it may not. Rog Phillips has assured me that Palmer is sincere in his study of the Shaver Mystery; Gordon Kull and others visiting the ZD editorial offices have come away with the same impression. I don't know. I've never met Palmer, and it is possible, as Ackerman says, that Rog may be "misguided." It is possible that Palmer is out for profit; like I say, I don't know. AND I DON'T GIVE A DAMN. It just grates me to see somewhat like Forrest Ackerman, voted most popular fan on a recent poll, slap fandom in the teeth because of a personal grudge! I have yet to see anyone refuse an outright, valuable gift merely on the grounds that he doesn't believe the giver strictly honest in his business affairs! Fandom would be a collective fool if it refused to receive or tolerate valuable publicity and backing from Amazing Stories, or anybody else. Of course, like everyone else, I would draw the line at occult magazines, for the sole reason that occultists would not be creditable additions to fandom. But there is no sound basis for claiming that all of Amazing's readers are occultists, or that they are all crackpots, or that the occultists will be the only ones to reply to a fan column. For eons fandom has needed such a column, written for the average reader who could be interested in fandom, and be a creditable addition to it. And for the same number of eons, such a column has never existed. The only pre-fan-columns thus far have been exclusively fan-slanted. The average reader is more frightened and discouraged than anything else by letter-columns and fanzine-reviews handled in the usual manner; I know this from experience; I was myself! A column of the type Rog proposes to run in Amazing Stories would draw new, and creditable, additions to fandom. But, because the pro-fandom propaganda is to appear in a magazine against whose editor Ackerman has a personal grudge, and with whose editor's policies Ackerman does not agree, Ackerman proposes to slap fandom in the teeth by turning down the valuable publicity and new blood! Now, I ask you -- what kind of "honor" is that?

Ackerman tells us we will receive no more of his contributions if we "support" the column in Amazing Stories. This is the final blow calculated to discourage the aforesaid "support"; I don't doubt that

there are many fans who will refuse to send Rog review copies on this grounds alone. Ackerman, as he says, is popular in fandom; his contributions are both numerous and high-quality, entertaining and informative, valuable; many fanzine editors will no doubt reach the conclusion that Ackerman's contributions are more valuable than Amazing's fan-support, and act accordingly. But I feel fairly certain, and hope, that there will be a fairly large, and ever-growing number of fanzines who will put fandom's good above the value of Forrest J Ackerman's name on their contents pages. Ackerman's stuff is not so valuable that it cannot be done without; there are plenty of other fans who can write equally good material, as I believe Ackerman (unless he is even more egotistical than he is indicated) will admit. My only fear is that this statement by 4e will be the springboard to Jack Speer, Sam Moskowitz, Joe Kennedy, and other leading fans' making the same statement. I hope to God that it won't happen, but it may, and that WOULD be a blow. It's my only qualm about accepting the Amazing support.

Personally, if I could be sure that Ackerman would be the only fan who would refuse to cooperate and contribute material and subscriptions to fanzines sending review copies to Rog, I'd tell him to go to hell and let him do as he pleased. But there is the possibility that all the leading fans will adopt the same tactics. And that's what I'm afraid of.

But, until such definitely is known, I'll make this request to all of you: forget Ackerman. He's not THAT important. Go ahead and send your review copies to Rog. Many of you have indicated that you are not entirely, dogmatically, anti-Amazing; I only hope that your sincerity, openmindedness, and love for fandom will overpower your regret at losing Ackerman's support. Ackerman's loss will be a blow to fandom. But fandom has weathered greater storms than this, and emerged, and emerged more or less intact; and it can stand to lose Ackerman if what it stands to gain by losing him is worth the price. In this case I believe it is worth the price, high though it may be. It is my sincere hope that at least some of you will agree with me, and act accordingly.

It will be interesting to learn how many of you agree with Ackerman that publicity in Amazing Stories is bad for fandom, and how many will disagree to the point of sending Rog your fanzines for review. If Rap is openminded enough to forget the past and open up his pages to fandom, we, whose principal point of pride is our openmindedness, can forget the past too. The minute Shaverism and Amazingism enters the fan column, I'll refuse Rog the right to mention Dream Quest in it. But until that day, I'll cooperate wholeheartedly. I'm not going to have it said of me that I slapped fandom in the face because of my purely personal prejudices. ##

Rog Phillips briefs:

I would appreciate it if you would place a notice in your regular issue to the effect that the fan dept, in Amazing Stories is postponed a month to give those fan editors who have promised cooperation and have sent their zines for review purposes a chance to make up their minds and let me know. Also to invite any who had not received my form letter to send their zines if they wish. ##

JACK SPEER says, 8 Oct 47:

I'd like to say at the outset that I wish you would drop the policy of publishing letters entire. Vom, did, you know. Even exercise some selection on what letters you won't publish at all. I'd feel much more like writing spontaneously if I knew that some editor would comb the pointless or overwordy stuff out of my letter. Heck, you're trying to make letter-writing almost as hard as article-writing.

It does give yer a catch in 'd throat to see a mag copying so closely the format of the beloved and lamented Vom. I could wish that had a better title than Fandom Speaks! And black mimeo ink is good enuf for me.

Well, let's look at the letters. S V McDaniel seems to be on the beam with his interpretation, though he doesn't express it any too well; a little too eloquent, methot.

Lots of talk about the Palmer affair. I introduced that resolution at the Philcon, so you know where I'd stand on Sneary's question. You asked for dope about the insanity report. Kennedy's summary in Fantasy Review contained about all that's known; for the full original report from Stefnews, see Scientifictionist of a few issues back. By now Hawling et al have had time to plug up nearly all the holes in their story and present a pretty complete explanation; but there are some things still that don't jibe, and I'm inclined to think the whole claim that the report was a hoax is something fabricated subsequent to Hawling's being put on the Ziff-Davis payroll. Sooner or later the truth will out. Guerry Brown's letter was rather surprising. For an example of falsity in the Shaver myths, take his method of analyzing words to get hidden meanings. The theory that our language shows these meanings because it's descended from a Lemurian tongue is refuted by old documents which show the language in its earlier stages, when forms now identical came from sources that were spelled and pronounced quite differently, and different-looking modern words are represented by common ancestors. For an authoritative discussion of errors in the first Shaver story, he can be referred to Dr. Gardner's article in Fantasy Commentator

shortly after its appearance. I think we can start out with the premise that the story is a lot of hokey. A few people may drop out at the next stage, where we agree that we don't like it, and would stop it if we could, consent with freedom of the press, etcetera. That brings us to the really tough question on which my Philcon resolution was defeated--whether anything we can do will be effective. There are two approaches that I tried to present to the Philconers: In the first place, while we can't do anything positive to get our views to the bulk of Amazing's readers, or hurt their circulation, we can at least reject conclusively Palmer's overtures aimed at getting us to assist in spreading it further. He and his associates apparently think we'd be of some use to them that way, or they wouldn't still be trying to do something about us. I wanted to burn our bridges behind us on that. The other approach is to neutralize, as far as possible, the bad odor which Palmer gives to science-fiction. That's the second thing we don't like about the Shaver stories being published in Amazing, and I think we could have accomplished something in that direction with a strong declaration dissociating literate science-fiction from the Ziff-Davis twins. Literary men would have heard about it. And thru such avenues as the Baring-Gould article in Harper's, it might even reach a fairly large audience. It seems out of the question to change Amazing's policy while it is financially successful; but if we can't kill the germs, we can do something toward sealing them off, as the body does with tuberculosis.

What did Don mean by the Art Widner episode, which he rated most important? I've hardly heard Art's name mentioned of late.

I think Len misremembers the matter of Ackerman's step-reading negro friend. When I asked, I believe Forry said he was transferred away before there was opportunity to take him to the LASFS; probably Len remembers Ack worrying about what he'd do if the fellow were cold-shouldered. "I wonder if it would help any to examine the word 'prejudice'. Its original meaning is to judge ahead of time, usually on the basis of a single characteristic before other evidence is in. Thru that connection it has come to be synonymous with group-thinking, i.e., assuming that all members of a group (the extension of a group being determined by a single characteristic) are alike. Yet as a practical matter isn't it often necessary to treat members of a group as if they were alike? Certain treatment must be meted out to all residents of Germany, for instance. And don't we also run into situations where we must govern our actions on incomplete evidence about people? Possibly all the things that we can ever learn about a person are just ways of putting him into various classes--the concurrence of different classes presently being enuf to distinguish him as a unique individual. I don't know where this leads, but that I'd throw it out. " Another word worth looking at, as Len does, is "tolerance". "Tolerance" may sound like a weak word, but the meaning of "intolerance" is strong enuf, and if "tolerance" be taken simply as the negative of "intolerance", I see no reason to look down on it. Similarly, I think "justice" is much better understood in terms of "injustice" than as a positive idea to hypostatize.

I fear for Van Covering's proposed funzine. Don't think any all-humor farang has lasted long, or has lasted long on a straight humor diet. One disadvantage they have is that people expect everything in them to be laughable and nothing but. Wit is best used to season something else, or provide a change of pace from seriouser material.

One thing Carter doesn't explain very well is who is going to do the dirty work of the publishing. Sure it's a good idea to take the burden of stenciling and crankturning off a fan editor (though they would miss some satisfaction thereby). But somebody else has got to do it, and if it's an amateur he won't even have the satisfaction of expressing his personality in what he puts out the work on. Better, I think, is the idea of publishing by commercial photolitho, which Willmorth and other Westerners are taking up, saving themselves lots of time and elbow grease. Of course, that costs a great deal more money, but haven't we all got plenty of money now that the Republicans are in power?

I enclose something or other by way of subscription. Keep them coming. ##

From 1010 Garcia Road, Santa Barbara, Cal. we hear from J. Vernon [Signature] who has these words (7 Oct 47):

Well, here we are with the first issue of FS in our hands, and a mighty good one it is, at that.

My letter first. Highest honors! And Thanks. Sneary second. With a letter from Sneary in your mag, what have you to worry about? He's got a lot of good ideas, too. I was glad to get the information on the Young Fandom-Rap-Caldwell triangle. But something has been bothering me. Len Rossell's letter helps me along.

What are we fans turning out to be? From the looks of things, we can't control our human tendencies in the long run any more than the ordinary individual. Why, Rick, should we show openly our disrespect for Rap? I, personally, don't think we need disrespect him for his material in AS. True, he has said some pretty loaded things about fans in general, and for that he ought to be held in irreverence. But certainly not without reason? After all, the majority of Fans did not give his Shaverisms a welcome. Well, we don't have to give them a welcome, if we do not like them. But must we bombard them?

Wilson says, "--in favor of Fandom-wide action against Rap--" Now, what kind of talk is that? Assuming that Fandom could even so much

as make a dent in the Ziff-Davis machine, which it could not. Why should fandom take action against Rap and his Deros?

Who's talking about prejudice? Who's talking about the great broad-mindedness of Fandom? If Rap believes in the cavern people, who cares? If he wants to print stories by Shaver, who cares? Palmer has a wide enough circulation of insane and insane voice-hearers to assure himself of the magazine, even if all fandom were to quit AS, which it won't, because now and then something like "Star Kings" comes up, and the loosely-organized Fan-government is not able to stop a person from buying a novel like that. It wouldn't, of course, if it could.

Fandom CAN possibly get some satisfaction out of Palmer for his slanderous remarks in Vampire. But as far as the Shaver Mystery goes, fandom is helpless, and shouldn't care whether it is or not. Emotion governs reasoning power, and I know that if I had just been called a "bastard" by some half-cooked madman, I would be angered too. But Fans should watch more carefully. After all, the existence of Dere cannot be either proved or disproved. I have tried in every way to disprove what Shaver says, and I can't. You try it. In fact, much of his story fits in remarkably with the ancient myths. He probably built his stories on these myths, of course, but who is to prove it?

I can say that I have been to Mars and have seen Martians there who are attacking Earth in the next three days, and I doubt if you would believe me. But you could NOT disprove what I say. Neither can you disprove what Shaver says. Ten miles within the earth are just as remote to us as the some 6 1/2 light-seconds to Mars.

And who mentions Rosicrucianism? I am neither a Rosicrucian nor a Shaverite, but I do make some study of a subject before I sound off on it. Shaver's preachings are no more near Rosicrucianism than the world is near having five years without atomic war. They are completely different, having only the common factor that both believe in the existence of Lemuria, or Mu. And even I find it hard to ~~believe~~ doubt Churchward's stone tablets, which have been PROVEN geologically to be over 20,000 years old, and which undoubtedly mention Mu.

But where does this lead us? Those of you who have been on the opposite side of the argument will say "McDaniel is nuts. Believing in Lemuria... Poo!" You will then think no more about it, save for your own side of the argument. Is this, then, living up to the standards set for Fans? Or are we after all just a bunch of infantile morons who rave about in the covers of "those" magazines? Shaver's story cannot be disproven. It cannot be proven. Let well enough alone.

Now, don't get the impression that I am a Shaverite (which I am not) or a Rosicrucian (which I am equally not) or even a Lemurian (which is doubtful, but possible... I might even be Napoleon.) Oh, oh... I shouldn't have said that... now the radicals will shout, McDaniel's a reincarnationist!... Even humor is barred!

Well, I say... let's not let weird Cults take hold of fans, thinking them to be gullible and willing to believe any bizzare thing, but also let's not go the other way and tighten up to something which is different. So far it's been either one side or the other. From now on let it be, in this and in other problems which arise, a study of both sides logically and intelligently by the machinery of Fandom as a whole.

Why should we believe or even think about accepting Campbell's article in the last ASF (about the flying discs) if we refuse to believe or even think about Shaver's explanation for the discs? Campbell's galactic empire and Shaver's cave people are equally unprovable. None of us shall know until the truth shows itself.

Now, when I mention galactic empire, your hearts leap. You would all be willing to believe or almost believe in a galactic whatitsname if you were shown any near proof of the existence of said empire. I would want to believe, also. There is a thrilling, real closeness of what we have dreamed about in such an idea. But merely because Shaver's equally possible ideas repel us, should we kick them out like a hot potato?

I keep thinking of more things to say, and I know you are all bored by now. At any rate, I hope some of you "fans" are relieved of your prejudices. For Prejudice means "Judgement before the facts have been presented," and that is certainly what we have done with Rap and all his little gremlins.

PS---- Just for your poll, Don... I wish personally that Rap would drop the whole damn thing!

I just had a thought--- ah, if the fans were all in high political offices... what couldn't we do to this old world! In no time at all, New York.. or Nyork, would be a towering mass of spires and minarets and plastic towers... well, we can dream, can't we?

Best wishes in your venture. Hope the next issue turns out as good as this one was. But get a better cover, willya?

Sincerely, ##

Crowded this ish: Kickey Slavin, Ed Cox (a new fan from Maine), --crowded out that is. You'll see them next time. Also Ed Evans, Stan Woolston, Loffatt, and more of the "regulars" plus others. Deadline: 1 Dec 47.

--Ed.

RANDOLPH SPEAKS

Published at 428 Main St., El Segundo, Cal.
Third Class Mail
Printed Matter ONLY
return postage Guaranteed

To--

RDSwisher
15 Gedyard Rd
Winchester, Mass

