

BABY OF MAYBE #3

From:

IRVIN KOCH: Publ. 835 Chatta. Bnk. Bldg., Chattanooga, TN 37402
HANK DAVIS: Editor, Box 154, Loyal, KY 40354
JANET FOX: Alt. Editor, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523
RICK CROSS: Asst. Box 1119 (Hess Hall), 1720 Melrose Pl., Knoxville, TN 37916
all CoA: 345 Fitch Str., Presidio of Monterey, CA 9

EDWARD P. BERGLUND, Apt. 305, 3916 Regency Parkway, Suitland, MD 20023, March 14, 1971
Enclosed, also, is my story "The Unicorn" (5,211 words). I hope that you find it satisfactory enough to publish and not too long.

In your last letter you asked me for information on the new HPLapa and the HPL club The Dark Brotherhood (formerly The Lovecraftians).

The Dark Brotherhood: This club is open to anyone interested in H.P. Lovecraft or any of the writers who have had work published by Arkham House. There are no dues and no subscription fee for the clubzine "The R'lyeh Text". The first issue is due out in Spril. There is also a monthly newsletter.

The HPLapa: This apa hasn't got started yet, but here is now they plan on working it:
1. An apazine (in fanzine format) will be published each month by a different central mailer. It will be mailed flat.

2. The central mailer will assemble and mail a zine composed of other members contributions, which they will print individually and send to the central mailer.

3. The central mailer is relieved of the responsibility of contributing for that issue, though he'll probably want to write an editorial.

4. Centrail mailer will handle mailing costs for the assembled zine.

5. Articles may later be reprinted in other fanzines, with the request that the author be sent a copy of the zine.

6. APA articles must be original, not reprints.

7. The uniting factor of the APA will be an interest in the works of H.P. Lovecraft, but contributions are not restricted to HPL.

One title for the zine that has been suggested so far is "The Esoteric Order of Dagon". Correspondence goes to Joseph F. Pumilia, 420 West Bell, Houston, Texas 77019 or Bill Wallace, 3515 Cedarcrest, Pasadena, Texas 77503.

I almost forgot to give you the address for the Dark Brotherhood. Correspondence goes to George H. Record, Box 183, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023.

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EDWARD P. BERGLUND, May 2, 1971

Well, I do believe that I owe you a letter, having received Maybe #9, 10, 11, 12, and Baby of Maybe #1, 2.

#9: Janet Fox's and Robert Weinberg's stories were tops in my opinion. The "The Faces Behind the Big Names" was extremely interesting as I have never been in an area when a convention seems to be taking place. I always seem to arrive after or leave before one takes place.

#10: "New Acid" left a lot to be desired, but "The Rainmaker" was a real thought provoker. That was quite an ending. "The Crushing Death" was okay, but differed so much from previous Morgan Smith stories, that it couldn't be compared to them. "Filtration" still remains interesting to me.

#11: I liked Janet Fox's story, but I can't remember anything by her that I haven't liked. "The Writer"--I wonder how many amateur writers have toyed with this idea and then discarded it in disgust. It just gets too involved and you can't keep track of anybody in the whole damned story from one minute to the next. You practically need a score card to read the story.

#12: "Something Fishy" didn't seem to be

fully developed. Especially the ending, it was as Pumilia was typing along and finally got to his climax in the story and wanted to hurry and rush it through the typewriter. But it still read good. "Three Mile Limit" came out first this issue. A straight science fiction story for a change. Not that I have anything against fantasy, horror, science fantasy, sword and sorcery, or anything else, mind you. All in all the four issues are definitely an improvement over the ones back around #4,5 and 6.

I was wondering if you could mention in Maybe that I would be interested in seeing any amateur Cthulhu Mythos stories for possible publication in Nyctalops. (I recently became the Assistant Editor --Fiction, and we plan on publishing one Cthulhu Mythos story per issue. I am also interested in seeing stories that have seen previous publication for possible reprinting in Nyctalops.)

Well, that takes care of it this time, Irvin, except for one minor detail. Will my story "The Unicorn" be in #15 (you stated that all issues were firm as to the contents up to this issue), and will it be in two parts? Would also be interested in finding out what minor deletions you may make in my story. ("The Unicorn" will be in Maybe #14 and #15 with no deletions/changes)...IMK

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GEORGE PROCTOR, 1524 S. Oak, Apt 205, Arlington, TX 76010

Once again MAYBE arrived at the right time. As I take any fanzines that might arrive to work with me to read if the time arises between stories. Last issue you caught me on City Desk and got a prompt comment. Today you caught me on night police and since there are only rapes, muggings and robberies happening around the booming metropolis of Dallas, Tex., I again have time to knock off a prompt letter.

CITADEL 2

should appear in your mail box sometime in April, this issue will be in offset. I would like to make a plea for help. I need sopy and art work for the magazine and would appreciate any help that can be given, like letting the fact be known with anyone you correspond with regularly, if possible. (I am against using my own writing and art in my own magazine--for some reason it seems rather self defeating.)

As to MAYBE 11, which after all, is what this letter is about, overall it was greatly improved.

Layout was a lot cleaner looking, but still needs working. Personal tastes calls for something else other than caps on a typewriter to be used for heads. Caps just don't have the style or flare. I think a stylus and lettering guide would be a worthwhile investment.

The cover was greatly lacking and left me cold. Interior art was greatly improved in quality and in reproduction. I especially enjoyed Dan Osterman's fillo on p15, and would write him to submit some art for CITADEL, but there was no address listed.

Once again Hank David provided the most interesting piece in the magazine, I'm sorry but fan fiction leaves a lot to be desired, including my own. THE BLUE WANDERER might have been interesting, if it had been developed, but a fanzine is not capable of printing a piece of fiction that is fully developed--space does not allow for this treatment. I also doubt if many fan writers are capable of writing a story that has fully developed plot, ideas and characters.

STONED--poorly done version of an old worn out trite story line.

THE WRITER --Probably the best of the lot. At numerous points it did evoke a few chuckles. A fairly good parody of subuniverse stories, written from a very interesting point of view.

Hank's two lists made me realize just how little of the myriad of sf stories I haven't read.

DAN OSTERMAN, 1 Elbow Ln, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Thanks for Maybe 11. Haven't read much from MAYBE yet; the art means a lot to me, tho. Ayotte is plain and simply poor. Lovenstien's an egocentric: dig his signature on his 2 illos last ish. But I used to do it too, but only sometimes as part of the illo. My mother asked to see your magazine and I said why. She said to see what I had in there. Shocking horrors! A nekkid wombman! Next she asked to see a copy of Earl and Jan Evers' zeen and for the same reason. After seeing my Nix-on illo she turned to the "affectionate doggie" cartoon by someone else. She said, "Should you associate with these people?" and "Are these people married or what?"

Hmmmmmm...

That letter from Jerry Page in the last ish got me psyched enough for me to send him some things.

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GEORGE W. PROCTOR, 1524 S. Oak, apt 205, Arlington, TX

Sorry to take so long in answering your last letter, which must have arrived here at least a month ago, but between the paper (which by the way I have started doing SF reviews for. Only short blurbs, but a start, plus picking up about \$60 in hard-backs plus numerous paperbacks for free in the past 6 weeks makes the effort worth while) and putting out Citadel #2 (which was out on time by the way) and other outside activities, I just haven't had the time for correspondence.

By now you should have received Citadel #2 and I hope you enjoy it. By the way you might mention to your co-editors if they will send along an 8¢ stamp, I'll send them an introductory copy.

Glad you could use some of the fillos I sent, which I noticed were in Maybe #12. You mentioned in your letter, you had passed some along to other faneds, if you happen to remember who they were, I would appreciate knowing, so I can secure a copy of their publications.

I noticed that between you, Steve Utley and myself Citadel got what amounted to three free plugs in Baby of Maybe #2 and Maybe #12. I would be glad to return the favor, if you would let me have a LOC on Citadel #2.

Also you should hit Steve over the head for some illos, but ask him to go easy on his fine lines, they are hard enough to repro with offset and are a complete impossibility for mimeo as seen in my first issue.

Maybe #12 was very impressive as far as the fiction went. Really a great improvement over the past two issues I have seen. If forced to pick what I felt was the best of the issue, I think it would have to be Cross's THREE MILE LIMIT. I would have liked to have known his aliens better and there was little description of them.

Maybe #12 seemed to have a dirtier look than usual as far as re-pro went, though. Many of the pages in my copy looked as if someone forgot to use slipsheets between the pages as they came off the mimeograph. ((My mimeo hates everyone...IMK))

By the way, how is school coming along? Seems I remember you mentioning some math or electronics course you were having a rough time with (or was that the second or third time you were having a rough going with it?) Hope everything worked out and graduation is on the horizon.

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DAN OSTERMAN

Got Maybe 12 a few days ago. Nothing but story(s). I say that because there doesn't seem to be much variation from hard science fiction. As I see it.

GORDON LINZNER

I have never claimed to be the worlds only SF fanfiction zine, or anything like that. I have claimed to be the magazine of fan fiction, but that was mere chutzpah and certainly did not mean to exclude the possibility of others being in existence. By the way, I no longer make that claim.

I have been pubbing S & T since September of 1966 or thereabouts, but somewhat more erratically than you.

Enclosed is a copy of my last issue, with my wrong address--the new one is Apt. 4-M, 83-10 118th Str. Kew Gardens, NY 11415.

Trade? ((Space and Time IS the zine of graphic fan fiction, but Linzner & Company are such fun to quibble with...IMK))

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JACKIE FRANKE, Box 51-A, RR 2, Beecker, IL 60401, March 31, 1971

Thanks for the ish of Maybe #11. It's the first fanfic I've read in general SF. As a newcomer to fandom the only previous exposure received was to Star Trek fanzines. A couple of those were pretty good--most were terrible!

Contents weren't bad at all, at all. The Blue Wanderer wasn't my cup of tea--but then most fantasy isn't. Prefer SF as a rule.

Stoned didn't quite make it. Characters very clearly drawn, mood set--but... The abrupt, ambiguous ending Janet used needs a bit more work. Perhaps the length restricted her too much.

The Writer was cute, though was beginning to wonder when/if the end of the chain would be reached.

andy offut's "Letters" are always enjoyable--Think if I hear (read) Evil is Live Spelled Backwards I'll scream though. Everything he's put out the last few months has at least one mention of the book. I know one should be proud of what one does, but how 'bout more info on those other 9 novels--pen name or no? ((Buy MAYBE #13 & it's there..IMK))

The letters left me out, continuing from previous LOC's as they did. All in all, a readable issue and, if the fiction is representative of fanfic in general, gives me hope. So many zine editors seem to consider fan fiction a dirty word (perhaps to replace the no-longer shunned Anglo-Saxon variety)

Don't know why. Sure, some are weak or have weak points, but so do many in the prozines. Still think the beginner, (if he/she is so inclined) should have a platform for exposure. The "above it all" attitude still puzzles me despite the explanations I've read (If it's good--it will be sold "Why should I read someone's practicing?" Fanfic is usually junk) Most editors run fan-art and I can't see where the argument is any different on that score. I like fan-art, I like fan-fiction and think they both deserve exposure. It's good to see you're supplying room for both. ((Jackie has joined Liz Fishman writing features for YANDRO, the world's best fan article zine...IMK))

+++++
ALEX VITEK, 478 Prentis, Apt. 3, Detroit, MICH 48201

I received the copy of Maybe 12 and have finally gotten around to going through it. It has what some of the other zines I've seen have lacked, and that is, good reading. The stories were good, especially The Blue Wanderer, by John Steele. The Bibliography on the Best short stories was extremely interesting, and I am going to have to look into it some more.

Now, I've got a question for the fan world in general. What made U. LeGuins novel, Left Hand of Darkness so good it won a Hugo? It is beyond me. I will admit that her idea was good, but that is about all that I will concede. The rest of the novel was underdeveloped, which made it very boring for me. It took three attempts before I got around to finishing it. So fans, tell me why it

got a Hugo.

In ish No. 12 there is a letter from Offutt. I found this little letter rather amusing. Offutt, it seems, got a letter from some fan who claims that Evil is Live Spelled Backwards restored his faith in Science Fiction or something. This piece of porno that Offutt calls SF wasn't even as good as LeGuins'. His moral or theme or whatever was mundane, trite, etc. The story was sickening. I remember calling Spinrad's style of writing in Bug Jack Barron experimental, but at least he knew how to write. I talked with Offutt at the 1970 Midwestcon, and I know that his intentions as to what Science Fiction should be doing are good, and surely he could do better than what he did in Evil is. Time will tell.

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ART HAYES, Box 1030, S. Porkupine, Ontario, Canada

Maybe #11 and Baby of Maybe #2 on hand.

Maybe #11. Enjoyed The Blue Wanderer-

A Fable. The rest of the issue was so-so.

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Please note that STING is now at: 3 Collingwood Court, Collingwood Rise, Folkestone, Kent. Phone: 38735 ((STING is MAYBE's British counterpart and costs 60¢ apiece to me or in British currency to her...IMK))

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BILL WOLFENBARGER, 705 East Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

I've been in the midst of a new gig as busboy in a restaurant and in the midst of my wife's spring cleaning! I received your envelope with MAYBEs #s 10.& 11, plus the first two BABY OF MAYBEs.

Lately I've had the feeling there IS some sort of conspiracy with the P.O....hmmmm...

Comments of MAYBE 11: Really enjoyed "Stoned" by

Janet Fox. What I'd like to see Janet do is a novel; yeah, sit down and write write write and come out with a farout fantasy experience in the form of a wild novel. (((Hey, so would I...JKF)))

I had the same sort of experience Janet mentioned in re the Lowndes publications. What I did was submit an article to EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN, and I got this "rejection slip" (which was one full letter size page long) which kept mentioning stories.

Your artwork... (uh, that's MAYBE's artwork, Irvin,) could stand a lot of improvement, altho I got a kick out of the cover on #10.

Happiness is a Warm Mimeo.

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JEFF SCHALLES, 173 McClellan Dr. Pittsburg, PA 15236

I get the strangest feeling that you don't want me to send you any more cartoons...

Do you realize that in the last 9 issues of Maybe you have used 70 of my cartoons? That's one third of all the cartoons I've ever had published so far. One Third. Out of 27 zines that have used my cartoons. This is exceedingly strange...

Have you tried Seth Dogramajian's Fan Art Clearing House? He is trying to set up this thing to redistribute art to needy fan eds. It's not really charity, so don't stay away from pride. It's just a good way to spread unused art to places that need it. Write to him at 32-66 80th Str., Jackson Heights, NY 11370. Tell him what you're looking for, and since I sent him a whole stack of cartoons, better tell him you don't want any Schalles cartoons...

It's worth a try.

It's really strange the way I keep sending you Locs and art when I never read 98% of the zine. I read the letters and anything that doesn't look like fiction or bibliography...

I suppose by

now you've gotten my crud zine. Pretty bad, huh?

Well, this letter is getting no place fast, so ((Jeff puts out COVER...IMK))

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RICK SNEAR, 2962 Santa Ana Str, South Gate, CA 90280

((Rick said in TIGHTBEAM that a 4-editor deadlined fanzine was impossible-- I replied & he answered...IMK))

As far as I can tell you are referring to my remarks about the trouble of editing with four editors..or getting past five issues..If so there is no arguement..Ofcourse it can be done, and has been done...and many fanzines go beyond five issues.. But four editors make it harder, if in the case we were talking about the issue hangs on each one doing his part.. And, with Tb there is a deadline involved.. --And, in your case, your co-editors seem right at hand. ((Ha)) The problem of multapal editors is much less if they are close enough to be in frequent direct contact.. Infact, group editorship works very well when they are part of the same local fan group.. ((4 different cities?...IMK)) I was thinking of one carried on by mail..a point I should have made clear. --But there is no hard and fast rule, and if I tend at time of late to write in pontifical pronoucements, it is signs of fannish-age setting in..All fanzines I've edited, have been co-edited to some extent..if only in that some one else ran them off..And this works very well, if it doesn't matter if things get hung up..(((Maybe isn't impossible--but IMK is. JKF)))

I've run through Maybe rather quickly...as there are a stack of un-read fanzines here, I have skiped the fiction, which looks to be up to fan standard.

Letter by Jerry

Page was interesting..I never have read weird with any liking, but I certainly wish him better than the Fates have been handing out so far..With most of the other pro mags folded in the past six weeks it leaves a large part of the feild to him.. if only he could get the mag onto enough stands to sell.. Some one was telling me of 600 copies setting in a N.Y. destributors warehouse, with only a few being sent out late, before the lot was shipped back..Even MoF wouldn't last long with that treatment..And it is like the buses,..Once people get out of the habit of looking for magazines, they will stop looking altogether.

A list of favorite short stories is not terrorably exciting.. Some interest to see how many of ones own he puts in the list, or what odd items are included ..but then what can you do..You can't really argue over what is a matter of taste..Not listing "Nightfall" by Asimov, when it has been in the top ten of many peoples list seems strange..but..what else is there? With my poor memory, I would have been hard pressed to come up with a simular list, with-out something to referr to.

Andy Offutt's writing style seems so much like a put on that it is hard to take him seriously--yet the shear volume of his out put suggests a far more serious attention to business than his attatude implies ..I don't think I've read any of it..and as a result miss what good does come along..untell it reaches the stage of being an old time classic.

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MR. & MRS. SALOMON LICHTENBERG, 9 Maple Terrace, Monsey, NY 10952 (as of July 1, 1971)

Maybe #12 was one of the best fanzines I have received. I would have to say that it even approached the level of some of the better ST zines now running. And that's quite a compliment.

The removal of letters from the text of the fictinn is a great improvement. Your strange paragraphing convention is permissibile in an effort to give a distinguished look to a zine which, being mimeo'd has little other recourse.

Now to the stories. The Old Woman from Antiquity handled an antique theme with a wordy style and inept characterization but with all that, it did manage to convey a powerful atmosphere and display considerable skill on the part of the author.

I would suggest that if you want to upgrade your zine, you should correct some of the stylistic blunders in a manuscript of this quality and return the ms to the author for further revision. It is remarkable how much can be accomplished with a little blue-pencil. If you need help in this line, I suggest you contact Alma Hill of the Writer's Exchange and see if she knows an exchanger of skill and interests matching your needs. You may say that such editorial pickiness would send your contributors howling away in gaggles, however, I might point out that all the better ST zines do rely heavily on editorial revision to achieve their standards. After all, that's what being an amateur writer is all about.

Something Fishy was a worth-while piece of 'warning fiction' but could have used some further material to deepen the effect. It didn't quite manage the strong, macabre atmosphere I felt it was trying for.

In Magic--was one of the most enthralling stories of its kind I have ever read. It may be that I was in a susceptible mood at the time, but I think the outstanding accomplishment of the author was in the weaving of a strong narrative hook and line. I think the flaw in the story was a certain lack of foundation for the actions of the characters. And that is a fumbling observation on my part because I am aware that the author went to great pains to TELL us why his characters reacted the way they did..but somehow it just didn't jell for me. That's not being very helpful..but I guess I'm not competent to help in this. It is one of the major complaints I often get on my own work. This is one reason I feel that reading the story and studying it is a valuable experience. Perhaps I can learn something from seeing my own mistakes from another's typer. I would say that the plot of the story should have been altered to allow a few scenes depicting the relationship of the three main characters in order to set them as individuals in our minds. Then the first scene that falls down, the one where the prowler is hexing the girl and then leaves David to turn on the woman and call her gutter names, should have been constructed in such a way that David's change of attitude should be explained by the curse or the mystery of the change should have been brought home more sharply. All of the difficulty may well stem from a lack of adequate characterization.

After this major scene, the motivations of the characters become far too complex for so short a story. He has enough conflicts here for a sub-plot of a major novel. A short story, by definition, must have one and only one clear-cut conflict.

P.S. A complete bibliography of the Kraith series will be published later this year by LNSTFCCF... at least complete-to-date.

I just got word from D. Carol Roberts that you may use T'Zorel as a reprint but please be sure to credit Impulse. You have her address? 1010 E. Mabel Apt 211, Tucon, Arizona 85719.

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MIKE STORSLEE, 246 W 20th Str. NYC 10011

Thanks for the egoboo--your letter really made my day.

No need to waste airmail stamps asking for fanzine rights to "Snow Castle", the competition is not all that keen. As you very correctly pointed out there is no possible market for the thing, and its sheer bulk puts it (I would have thought) outside the capabilities of any amateur pubber. Needless to say I would be delighted to see my little labor of love in print, and I hereby and herewith give you my blessing--subject to two conditions and a requested favor.

Condition 1: If (beynd all expectatinn) somebody pops out of the woodwork and offers me money for the thing with the stipulation that you should not be allowed to publish it; well, I take back my rights and you are screwed. Don't lose any sleep over the possibility, please.

2: If you haven't gotten it out in

a year (1 May 72) and someone else has made me an offer, I will feel free to call off our deal. Again, you dcn't have much to worry about.

If you do publish it I wish you would favor me by sending along any comments you get on it. ((Baby is such...IMK)) I am more or less gafiote and will never get the word otherwise.

Thank you again for the good words, and good luck on our project. Photo-offset would be a beautiful idea if you could swing it; my tongue lolls out at the thought.

I wish you every success in your crusade on behalf of our misunderstood little sub-cult.

Fan Fiction Forever--

JANET FOX, address elsewhere (((Hey, that's ME...JKF)))

Don't ever do that again. Tell me you seriously doubt if I can do such and such. I have half killed myself and spent one total afternoon of the first day of summer vacation typing your BABY (your baby, that could be a joke, son, if I had the presence of mind left to make jokes). I think you will like this elite typer: it belongs to the school. The school and I have lots of possessions in common, only the school don't know it. THINGS I HAVE LEARNED FROM TYPING THIS THING:

1. TIGHTBEAM is not a femrefarne wearing a girdle that is two sizes too small. (C'mon Irv, tell me I'm the first neofan to make that joke.)
2. If one misses the p on the typewriter one gets a word that looks like this:
pater piper picked, etc.
3. Fanfic is a dirty word. (I'll add it to my already replete vocabulary)
4. It is possible to make the same mistake 2 3 4 many times.
5. Corflu makes you f e e l e rry H A

v

PP

Y!!!



From
IRVIN KOCH
835 Chatt Bk Bldg
Chattanooga, TN 37402

3D Class
Printed Matter

TO

Jackie Franke
box 51-A RR2
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60401