

BABY OF MAYBE #5

From: ~~3-880~~
IRVIN KOCH, Apt 16, ~~440~~ Diplomat-Blvd, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
And: HANK DAVIS, Box 154, Loyall, KY 40354
And: JANET FOX, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523

835 Clatt. Bk Bldg.
Chattanooga,
TN 37402

THOMAS BURNETT SWANN, Sequoyah Square Apts #610, 3636 Taliluna Ave, Knoxville, TN,
37919

How nice to hear from you! I'm glad you've settled in Florida. I think you'll like it.

You pleased me very much liking The Forest of Forever and liking the greater length. I thought it might seem long-winded with so few adventures in it.

I wonder what kind of work you're doing in Florida. May it go extremely well.

P.S. I still have that same barber but I discourage him from chattering now and making comments about my books. He works in the Golden Crown Barber Shop. Maybe you went there when you were in Knoxville.

ROSE HOGUE, 1067 W. 26th Str, San Pedro, CA 90731

Hi! Really am sorry that it has taken me so long to get around to writing you but everyone here has been flu struck again--Bill even stayed home from work yesterday which means that he is really feeling lousy. In the five years he's worked at Bethlehem he hasn't even taken one sick day til yesterday...and he gets 12 weeks of paid sick leave a year. His philosophy is that it is best to be doing something while you're ill, so that you forget you're ill...whenever I try this I find that everything I do gets done wrong so I don't do much when I feel lousy but I do try to keep as busy as I can doing nothing...

Thank you muchly for MAYBE #14 and for BABY OF MAYBE #4. I gather that these are to be my last unless I do something...so better get busy here and do something.

I did so enjoy BABY. The letters are rather interesting--especially all the comments on ST stories--I guess I should concede that as a rule ST stories are usually better written than serious sf ones--at least on the fannish level of fiction. The "unsolicited letter" from Dale Donaldson was really strange--I got a good laugh out of it and may just send him 25¢ to see what it's all about--curiosity killed the cat and all that...

Do you really own a "Spiro Agnew T-Shirt"??? Sounds like that's just the thing to operate a mimeo in...I sort of like Janet's humor--by the way what happens to ugly girls 7½ years older or younger....? (((Nothing! Dammit! JKF)))

I really like the Allan Underwood cover for MAYBE--the boyish face on the centaur intrigues me--believe his ears could have been a bit more pointed but otherwise that is an excellent drawing--my impression of centaurs was that they are mostly Dirty Old Men type creatures.

Well do hope that you get this even though it is going to your new address...

Darell's letter is interesting in parts--which reminds me I should write to him soon--have a couple of PROCRASTINATIONS stacked somewhere around the house...Unfortunately or fortunately whichever way you look at it, I tend to forget titles of really rotten stories so I really can't vote on that category--but as to the worst sf movie ever created "The Incredible Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed Up Zombies" has my vote--I've never seen this movie and probably never will--it only plays on the tv at 3 or 4 a.m. every so now and then again...

Muchly enjoyed the J. Lichtenberg short--"Attenuating Circumstances." It

really is well done and enjoyable. I liked the lack of transition between the captain and neice Erma--but it did tend to be a bit confusing...probably because I read this while a jack-hammer was going in the street--so far they've been repairing/ruining the street in front of our house for three weeks...

Edward Berglund's piece--"The Unicorn" is most fun and I do hope to read the rest of it--I get stuck on serials so easily and usually end up missing the end of them...There were parts of it a little too much to be believed--such as "Could the Unicorn be communicating with me by means of telepathy?" Now really?? I know I'm gullible but that much so?? Anyway I am enjoying the story and hope to see what becomes of the Unicorn, Milner, Alice and even General Fayrbourne...

"A Promise" is a fair piece of fiction--have never heard of Carol before and hope to see more of her fiction! I'm sorry to say the ending seemed a bit of a cop out--but then it left things open for serialization didn't it? Amy seemed a bit cold and not really defined as a person much--but then she has a violet tint to her skin and isn't really a person...so guess it is okay not to characterize her as one.

Janet Fox gets better all the time!!! "The Eyes of John Black" is really well done and more of a mystery than sf or fantasy. The ro-bat gimmick intrigued me--would like to have read more about it. Also the idea of John seeing out of his eyes while they're in another man's head is sort of eerie--would he have a bit of trouble with perspectives?? Anyway it is a most entertaining and well written story.

Well I'd best close for now have ten million things to get done that I have a feeling just aren't going to get done...again thank you for MAYBE, BABY and all!!!

Wish you a most

Happy Halloween and hope all is Well!!

Faneds are hung up on reproduction!

LANE LAMBERT, Rt 2, Bruce Rd, Boaz, AL 35957

Haven't had the time to read the fanfic in MAYBE yet (well, same story for XRYMPH, if that makes you feel any better...). I have trouble finding the time to read the pro sf I have - right now about sixty or seventy (or maybe eighty) of my books are unread.

There is a peculiar sort of thrill in buying ten or so secondhand pbs you know you wnn't read! This may be literary masochism...

Congrats on your Second Annish which is a singular accomplishment in itself. MAYBE looks just like it did last year, too...I'm glad you'll be getting away from fanfic and such before long. It seems so unnecessary for a fanzine to emulate the prozines; that trend should have gone out the door back in the late thirties and kept on going.

Dear me-- still on the strekkies, I see. The bastard children of fandom. I won't knock their thing, though - we have Lovecraft circles and Burroughs circles and so forth ad infinitum. Room for all; we only have 200 million from which to choose. As many as 10,000 fans would still be among society's more closed groups.

So, you see, I recognize strekkies but cannot identify with them. As though that'll shake them up!

Proctor's art came out better than anyone's. I've seen better Osterman but you are using higher quality illos all through,generally speaking.

I've had The Forest of Forever for a month and a half; nope, haven't gotten into it. See paragraph 1.

I've pretty well run out of comments on #14. Keep in touch; NEXUS #6 will be stencilled and pubbed during December (or so it presently seems) after the fall quarter ends.

I'll have two or three more columns besides my own - the whole issue is heaving in the direction of 30-32 pages...Wow! And for a while I wondered whether NEXUS would ever get much thicker than 14 or 16...

P.S. Think I'll send some Birdsong art when I get over and go through his newest stuff.

GEORGE PROCTOR, 406 NE 19th Str, Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Sorry, about this being so late, MAYBE 14 arrived at a bad time. Lana and I were in the process of moving and when we finally settled down, CITADEL had to be made ready for the printer. We are finally settled in and I am now in the process of catching up on a backlog of letters and LOCs.

Believe it or not, I'm not going to say one single word about the contents of this issue.

No! NO! Instead I'm going to do an expose on MAYBE, or more specifically the editors of MAYBE.

First off, what is the first thing a fan reads when he gets a fanzine..The LOC, right? Even if a fan has contributed to a fanzine he turns to the lettercol first. It's a natural instinct. The lettercol is where it's at. (Let's hear it for the lettercol...whoopee!!!)

O.K. Then there is MAYBE --Star of the South. MAYBE has its paper, its staples, its contents and its editors, right? But MAYBE doesn't have a lettercol. So the only way to get MAYBE is to contribute, trade or come through with a couple sticky quarters. The fine art of letters of comment is completely ignored. So to get MAYBE, I trade, right? (Everyone knows the Arlington Ace is too cheap to actually shell out bread for a fanzine. Afterall I am but a poor but poverty stricken newspaper reporter trying to get his wife through school so that she can support me.) But there are no all for all trades. So I send a bunch of doodles, thereby trading and contributing.

Then, MAYBE gets pregnant and has to have a BABY. Now this BABY is in effect nothing but a lettercol for MAYBE with one hitch. Ye ole editors say the thing is a separate fanzine, which everyone knows is a bunch of bull manure since readers of this fanzine with the name BABY OF MAYBE are not allowed to comment on its contents, but must comment on the contents of another fanzine called MAYBE. To confuse the issue further, the last copy of MAYBE (which was 13) was stapled together with BABY (which was number 4). Two separate fanzines stapled together, right?

Now any normal person would accept this as the way of life and fans, but not me. No, I have figured the whole thing out. You weren't happy with just receiving a trade; you weren't happy with a trade plus a contribution. No, you had to have more. You had to have a LOC also.

Which brings me to the point of this letter..here's your letter, please attach BABY to my next MAYBE.

End LOC

This is fannish brotherhood week...

Take a member of an eldritch race to lunch.

JACQUELINE LICHTENBERG, #9 Maple Terrace, Monsey, NY 10952

Sorry this has taken so long but a temporary part-time job got in the way of fan-ac.

Mr. Proctor wants to know why I am interested in Star Trek. I intended to write an essay on the subject but then things got hasty around here and I've sort of revised my goals. All I will say here is that I must agree that many of ST's screenplays had dreadful flaws both artisitic and scientific--but I would like Mr. P to tell me where he has seen better video sf?

Now you may hold that video sf is not intrinsically((1))

interesting and I would not be able to argue with you since there is no accounting for taste. However, I personally feel that there had never been any real sf on television until Star Trek. Now in order for Mr. Roddenberry to get ST onto tv, he had to make certain concessions to the established tv routines. Furthermore GR is not primarily an sf writer but only an occasional fan of the genre--if he was a serious fan he'd have been a PNF long before ST. So the major problems with ST come from the incompatibility of the methods of creating sf and the methods of creating commercial video drama. This incompatibility cannot be blamed on the first bold pioneer in the new genre of video sf.

My dedication of ST is two-fold. I wish to see this new genre enlarged. And I like ST for it contains some of the basic elements of sf that intrigue me most. Primary among these is the inter-cultural interface represented by Spock. Also, there are hints of other intelligent non-humans--but none is developed to the point where it becomes really useful to me. The problems represented by value-structures in collision are inherent in the structure of Star Trek--but due to the limitations of video (i.e. playing to retarded six year olds) these problems could not be adequately explored.

However, now that the show has been cancelled we are free to enlarge and embroider on the basic fabric--and we as sf buffs can write ST as PURE sf without the crippling limitations of video.

Mr. Proctor: if you thought on-screen ST was so bad--why aren't you in here with us writing ST as IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE? Why aren't you writing video-plays which both satisfy the boundary conditions of commercial tv and those of genuine sf? I find this difficult task extremely rewarding on a personal level--and it is also potentially useful to the evolution of this new and exciting genre.

ROSE HOGUE indicates she's seen badly written ST leaking into sf zines. I would guess (without knowing specifics) that this leakage may be either rejects that couldn't make ST zines or by fans who are not connected with ST zines. I, personally, and several other semi-pro's do a lot of ghost writing on pre-publications ms in order to avoid publishing really bad stuff. Of course, as in any fan movement, there have to be crudzines because where else can one start? (example in point, my story in MAYBE #14 is a very early, pre-training piece; it has spirit but little control) But I have noticed that ST crudzines metamorphose into slickzines very quickly. Perhaps the competition is so stiff because the material is basically limited and readers tire quickly of the formula. You practically can't find a formula story in the current zines--and the ones that exist are the LAST WORD on the subject. I think 1972 will be qualitatively different from past ST years--after all, we've come of age with a Con of our own!

Is ALEX VITEK a member of Wayne Third Foundation? I am wondering if he knows Laura Basta? She's a ST author of future renown!

Oh, now I see Carol Lynn's letter right beneath. This should be interesting--Carol Lynn is working on a ST story set in my Kraith Series!

I know I ought to comment on the other fiction in #14 but I actually haven't read it all yet and I don't know if I'll be moved to comment. Suffice it to say that I shall read and if moved I shall comment.

Question: is BABY OF MAYBE to continue after the editorial policy changes? ((2)) I think it's a cute idea and cleans up the pages of the zine nicely.

I'm looking forward to the visit to Andre Norton report.

I'll probably drop my interest in MAYBE when you drop fanfiction. Also I'm not that interested in general fanfic so as you shift away from SF, you'll lose me but gain back Dorothy Jones.

The new editor's policy of not editing submissions is completely

at odds with my own conception of the function of a faned. But if that is his philosophy--then I can see that he wouldn't dare handle any fanfic since it always needs polish as it comes from the typer.

Even my stuff needs work and I am eternally grateful to eds who have helped me. I won't be submitting anything more to MAYBE since my entire ST output is absorbed among the ST-zines and I wouldn't entrust any fiction to an editor who won't edit even for typo's. If I were all that good, I'd be writing only pro stuff and making a living off of it.

((1)) I like ST for same reasons...IMK

((2)) Probably not--letters will be part of MAYBE...IMK

STAR TREK CON Jan. 21, 22, 23, 1972

STAR TREK CON will be devoted to STAR TREK. It will, however, delve into related fields of science and science fiction. It will feature, among other things, STAR TREK slide shows and displays, as well as continuous showings of various episodes of the show. In addition, the convention will feature a hucksters' room, and an art show.

The convention will run three days, from Friday, January 21st, through Sunday, January 23rd, 1972, and will be held at the Statler Hilton hotel, located on 7th Avenue, between 32nd and 33rd Street, in New York City.

Registration will be \$2.50 in advance, and \$3.50 at the door. All advance registration should be sent to: Albert Schuster, 31-78 Crescent Street, Long Island City, NY 11106.

Please make any checks or money orders payable to Albert Schuster. The deadline for advance registration is December 31, 1971.

The HUCKSTERS' ROOM will be open to all areas of science fiction. Huckster tables will be \$15.00 each for the first table, and \$25.00 each for the second table ordered. They will be available on a "first come, first served" basis. The total number of tables available will be limited only by the available space in the hotel. The deadline for ordering huckster tables is December 31, 1971. Please direct your request to Albert Schuster.

Anyone interested in submitting material for sale and/or display in the ART SHOW, please contact us for details. The basic theme of this display will, of course, be STAR TREK. However, artwork relating to all aspects of science fiction, as well as comic art, is welcomed. Further information regarding the art show, as well as all entries, should be submitted to: Allan Asherman, 2112 64th Str, Brooklyn, NY 11204.

Please do not send any artwork until you have contacted us first. The deadline for all entries is December 31, 1971.

For any additional information regarding any aspect of this convention, please write to: Elyse S. Pines, 637 East 8th Str, Brooklyn, NY 11218.

GARY S MAPPINGLY, 210 Marlatt Hall, KSU, Manhattan, KS 66502

Many thanks for MAYBE, (Apr-May 71). Enjoyed "The Blue Wanderer, Stoned, The Writer, Filtration" and your various letters throughout.

All the stories were pretty good. Enjoyed the style and feeling of "The Blue Wanderer". Enjoyed the story in "Stoned" and "The Writer". "The Writer" was pretty funny.

Hope Davis learns to trace.

AXOLOTL

EDWARD #2 is a little slow coming, due to financial difficulties.

Hope all is well

there and luck on the elections. ((N3F)).

E.B. LINDSAY, 6 Hillcrest Ave, Faulconbridge, N.S.W. 2776

Thanks for sending me MAYBE 13, in exchange for GEGENSCHHEIN (henceforth GEG for short). This is really just a note to let you know your zine arrived and that I like it even if I don't send usable LOCs. I am not real interested in STrek, but must admit that the ST fiction was a lot better than I expected it to be, and the listing of Trekzines should interest a few of the trekfans down here. Thanks for the N3F address and info on the title changes booklet, I will send a dollar and see if they have any copies left. Plenty of fans in Sydney in '69, but even more now. Convention coming up SINCCN II in August is the Australian SF Con and we hope to have a US guest of Honour (is that honor over there, I don't have an American dictionary on hand), brought over by DUFF (just like TAFF) Details in recent LOCUS. Freas and offutt were very interesting and handy to know about.

(sea mail) for you. Hope you enjoy them. GEG 2 and 3 left here on Oct 9

DALLAS '73 WASHINGTON '74 AUSTRALIA '75
(MELBOURNE, 'cause then they have to do most of the work)

MARY H. SCHAUB, Box 218, Apex, NC 27502

MAYBE 14 and the accompanying letter supplement came today. As with most fanzines to which you haven't subscribed for long, much of the comment on earlier issues can be intriguing--so X hated s pry Y and says author Z must be dim-witted; given time, Z may rise to defend himself; one can always count on somebody misunderstanding something and saying so. The fiction in this issue wasn't too bad. Amateur sf is usually quite uneven in quality, but practice can work wonders, and if you never get published, how can you get helpful criticism?

I assume that the Andre Norton interview will be in your next issue, since it didn't get into the supplement. I had heard only recently that Miss Norton has been quite ill for some time; she replied most cordially to a letter I wrote in care of Ace some time last year, and I wasn't aware that she was ill.

I enclose my check for \$1 for your next 2 issues. MAYBE seems to be a varied creature, changing tone with each issue.

Spock is a Dale Carnegie drop-out.

JOHN AYOTTE, 301 42 2242, CoB USASAFS HERZO, APO, NY 09352

I don't really know why I'm writing this letter, except possibly to find out where in earth you dug up those old illos of mine. I guess I had sort of hoped that they had disappeared forever. They date back to my first year in fandom. I might send you some more recent stuff, but I don't really think you could use them to advantage. Electrostenciled, and printed on a good silk screen machine they might work out.

As you see, the address you finally got in July is somewhat out of date. In fact, I haven't been there for two years. My parents, though, forward my bulk mail to me every ones in a while.

Yours is one of the few fanzines that has turned up since I got to Germany (which, by the way, is where I've been for the last year, and will be for the next two...then, thank God, I'll be out of the army and perhaps able to get involved in fandom once again).

As I sit here, I find that I have very little to say. I guess I've just been out of touch for too long. I did enjoy reading your fanzine though I auestion the policy of printing (amateur, fan, bad--choose one) fiction. The letters and such were enjoyable though.

After reading Darrell Schweitzer's piece, I've been trying to remember if I ever published anything of his in KALLIKANZAROS

back in the good old days when I was putting it out. I think not, though I remember that he did send me quite a few submissions...mostly bad poetry. Things like, "To a Worm, Whom I found Crushed on the Sidewalk."

P.S. Pages 8,14 and 20 are mine...forgot to mention it in the letter.

GARY S. MATTINGLY, 210 Marlatt Hall, KSU, Manhattan, KS 66502

Well, well

Enclosed, find map of Kansas and Missouri, with Osage City pointed out in red. Hope all is well there. Showed Chapter One of "The Phantom Creeps" with Bela Lugosi last Thursday. Not much else is happening. Hope maps come in handy.

((I75 to Chattanooga, I24 to Nashville, I40 to Jackson, US4S to N of Ky and 51 US to Wickliff, Ky, US60/62 to I57 to I55 to I244 (St Louis Bypass) to I70 to Independence, Mo to Byp71 to Overland Park, Ks (stop in on Mattingly) to I35 to KS68 to Lyndon, US75 to KS31 to Osage City.(about 30 solid hours by car from Cocoa Beach--about 15 from Chattanooga) - 1111))

((Yes, Irvin, there really is an Osage City...JKF)))

SHAYNE McCORMACK, 49 Orchard Rd, Bass Hill 2179, Chester Hill, N.S. W.

Thank you for sending me a cc y of your MAYBE, I enjoyed it immensely, and will forward you a copy of TERRAN TIMES when it eventually is ready for posting.

I am very glad to see that Trekdom is still alive and well, I had feared that, like so many fads before it, it had passed into the dusty corners of the Great Fannish Memory. As far as I know, there are two Star Trek Clubs in Australia, DUSK and the Australian Star Trek Club, centred in Melbourne, Victoria. The ASTC is very inactive and does virtually nothing in the way of printing a fanzine, though some of its members do attend local Cons and usually have something in the way of an add in the Con books.

I intend to keep Star Trek material in TERRAN TIMES for as long as my readers tell me they want to see it, which should be for a long time. I personally love to read and write about it, and as it happens that I am the Editor, ST will be alive for a long time in Australia, if only in one small part thereof.

I really appreciated the Roster, it increases my mailing list by about 20. I shall send the second questionnaire to Jacqueline(having already done the first one), and I hope it will be of some assistance.

The story "T'Zorel" was very good, and I will be interested in seeing how it finishes.

I'm glad you like "Vision of Tomorrow", I'm only sorry it didn't win a Hugo, it would have made up for the fact that it failed as a business proposition. I have a complete collection (rare in my State, people keep offering me incredible things for my collection) and love to flick through its shiny fresh-smelling pages.

Well, I must be off (please excuse the bad typing, but I'm doing this at work when I should be doing other things.

The directions I appended to Gary's letter will be used come the end of August 0000 Ink

EMERGENCY MESSAGE

As this BABY goes to press on the night of Dec15, 1971, the scheduled date for the publication of MAYBE15, I've been hit with more than my usual share of disasters. For the first time in history a scheduled issue of MAYBE will not come out as scheduled or earlier. Also, ratfink Joe Floyd never did make it in with the Andre Norton visit report & never will. I have a cure for the first disaster: everyone who had #15 coming to them will get #16 either additional or early. I had the thing set up and run off just for an emergency as this, heard from Hank it would not be needed, ran it off to get out early as noted; then had to use it as an emergency issue after all. Hank Davis, who didn't get the stencils to me on time, also has a story, 'Staying Power', in the Jan1972 issue of F&SF--read it!! It's good. As for Ratfink Floyd who is responsible for two or three pages being missing from MAYBE and my not being able to keep my word on the Norton article--the next time I go to visit a pro writer, there are several in the area--you can bet I won't take him along to write about it/.IMK

LAST MINUTE LETTER

BOB STAHL, Box4072 College Station, TX77840

Vast apologies for not writing sooner--I discovered the first copy of MAYBE 14 that you sent not long ago--my roommate swears he didn't hide it but you know how Arkham Collectors are....You still are receiving Stanley I trust--((yes)); Another fan((Steve Goble)) took it over recently and I had to give up the fun of addressing multi hundred of the damned things...very broken up about it, you see...

Coming to PartyCon?((Not from FL)) Hope so--hoards of Aggies are coming to it, more than I care to count at present--should be a fun con. ***No room for the rest of it--he says I should use Press-type with Electerstencils, good idea, and that there were so some parties at D-Con this past July, which with ciffutt around is "only natural...IMK))

--000--

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from: Irvin Koch
c/o 835 Chatt. Bk. Bldg.
Chattanooga, TN37402
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