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SFPA

COURAGEOUS OFFICIAL EDITOR!  
Lon Atkins Battles Ogre of  
PLAGIARISM!



# THE NEW PORT NEWS

# 2

THE NEW PORT NEWS #2 is done for the 25th mailing of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance by Ned Brooks, 713 Paul Street, Newport News, Virginia - 23605

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**H**AIL SFPA! Helli yes... Here I am again. Better than before, I hope. There'll be less mes this issue, and some artwork by a local fringe, better than my own efforts above. My typing, I see, has not improved - the "local fringe" refered to above originated in my feeble brain as "local fringe fan".

There has been a bit more local fan activity the last couple of weeks than usual. Fred Lerner has been at Fort Eustis near here for several months, but I had not seen much of him, due to his military duties. But he's been here several times recently, has made a trip to NY and plans another this weekend. So I'll have a chance to get this out...

Sunday a week ago Fred and I and Red Avery went over to Norfolk for a meeting at Phil Harrell's place. Frank Dauer, Phil Walker, and Chuck Gwin were there. We initiated Fred into the Fellowship, then went out to Virginia Beach to visit the NEW AGE ART FOUNDATION. My '66 Corvair will hold 7 fans a little better than the '61...

The NEW AGE ART FOUNDATION is run by a Catherine Fiutko. Her husband works for the Assoc. For Research & Enlightenment, the ARE, which was formed to preserve and study the records of the psychic readings of the medium Edgar Cayce. Cayce was apparently an entirely sincere believer in spiritulism and the ARE is, as far as I know, entirely on the level. Cayce's powers have never been explained or understood. He simply discovered, at an early age, that he could answer in his sleep questions on subjects about which he could not possibly have known anything, by normal methods. His early work was all on the diagnosis of illness. He would lay down and fall asleep and would be questioned on the persons illness. He was told only the person's name and location. He carried out these "readings"

as they were called, for years and most were recorded. The ARE has some 30,000 of them on file. According to Sugrue's book on Cayce, THERE IS A RIVER, most of the readings were done free, and no hint of fraud was ever proved against Cayce. It is claimed that his medical diagnoses were 90% accurate. Later in his career, he began to do readings on metaphysical subjects. He gave long and involved but apparently consistent answers to questions on the nature of the soul, God, the afterlife, and so on. What emerges is basically Christianity with reincarnation. Several predictions of the future were made. The ARE was established in Virginia Beach because, according to several of the readings, it is the safest place in the country. He also predicted that Atlantis would rise from the Atlantic about now...

I had found the Sugrue book on Cayce very interesting, but I had not been to the ARE, tho Dauer and Walker have gone. If Mrs Flutko is any example of the typical psychic... She is what I call an accidental artist. The NEW AGE ART FOUNDATION apparently consists entirely of her own efforts. Most of the abstracts are pleasing to the eye and I liked several of them very much. But she cannot draw, and she is continually "discovering" fantastic psychic wonders in her paintings. One very vague landscape, for instance, somehow became a map of the Mediterranean, which was a miracle because of the recent mini-war there. Sometimes voices speak to her while she is painting, and tell her to paint something which is always of great significance but that I, at least, could seldom see in the finished product. One rather striking abstract turned out to match someone's description of Atlantis rising from the Atlantic. I am still uncertain about Cayce, but Mrs Flutko seems completely self-deluded. It is impossible to discuss with her the real nature of the event if Atlantis should actually rise from the sea, i.e. it would be a slimy mess of ruins and the geological effects on Virginia Beach would be unpleasant, to say the least. I don't mind odd ideas and beliefs, but one must be willing to accept the logical consequences of any premise.

Fred was here at my place last night, and Red Avery and a non-fan friend came over with a bottle of bourbon and a Diplomacy board. After about 3½ hours of play, Lerner as RUSSIA had 15 supply centers. Avery and I, allied as ~~USA~~ ENGLAND and FRANCE, were being driven back by RUSSIA and TURKEY. The RUSSIA turned on Turkey, and FRANCE and TURKEY allied against RUSSIA. The issue was still in doubt, but we gave Lerner the game on points, we had to quit.

Publishing in this area at present is up some. Besides my own NEW NEWPORT NEWS NEWS #2 for NAPA and general distribution, there is Red's THE PROBABLE OUTSIDE, to be multilithed; comic fan Chuck Rogers' WIZIT, to be offset, mostly comic (panel) format (the IRON AVENGER strikes again); and Phil Walker's ANAL SPHINCTER. Not a fanzine, he says... But what other type of publication would use such a title? And Phil Harrell is doing another VORPAL DRAGON for FAPA.

Inspired by Catherine Flutko, Phil Harrell has taken up painting... I will describe the result next-ish!



WOT THE HELL  
IS THIS HERE?

BEING in the nature of a column of mailing comments on the 24th mailing.

THE SOUTHERNER - Atkins. I don't feel I have seen enough of the apa to vote in the Egoboo Poll, so I won't... I gather that I can vote for OE as long as I get the activity in at the same time, right?

LORE - Page. The usual lovely job, Jerry. I expect you have seen it already, but the June-July FANTASY COLLECTOR #104 lists four rare books illustrated by Arthur Szyk, in answer to the question about this illustrator. I won't list them here, see Sanderson's auction in FC#104.

I'm not sure Kyle's ideas about the importance of prozine names have any real validity. Surely most people buy a zine because they liked it before, and buy it the first time because it's new? Kyle doesn't even mention GALAXY.

SFPAGE - Page. Thanks for saying TNNNN#1 was a "nice zine"... I'm glad somebody liked it! As for that book store, you will recall that I called you on the phone and offered to carry you down there! So don't call me a fink, it's your own fault...

JALAP - Pettit. Missed hearing from you. You seem to object to the repro in TNNNN, rather than the contents like almost everyone else... But if I'd wanted mimeo, I'd have got a mimeo... Or sat on phil harrell til he did it for me on his Roneo. I appreciate your offer though! Enjoyed your trip report.

QUAY-BERTH - Pettit. I like this zine. You are right about the Richardson thing, I think. But what is this about the sated hedonist being one for whom "reality is not enough"? Why else do people read sf or fantasy, but because reality is not enough? Your hedonist becomes sated because of his self-centeredness, not because of any deficiency in "reality".

BY THE SWORD #2 - Atkins. I notice all the collaborators in this zine are safely removed from His Hankness by a couple of thousand miles and a large mountain range, not to mention several rivers...

EXILE TWO - Wells. Greatly enjoyed "Thermocles Hastings", I hope we see further adventures. You are altogether right about Davidson's great sf, the one you can't remember the title of is MASTERS OF THE MAZE. Others are THE KARGHEE REIGN, ENEMY OF MY ENEMY, and RORK. Personally, I though RORK the all-round best. I think Davidson has suffered from unfortunate titles and a diversity of publishers. If THE CRYING OF LOT 49 has a PO plot and is like the Peter Seller's film WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT, I guess I'd better look into it again. I glanced at it once, it seemed a bit thick.

- SUCH & SUCH #12 - Luttrell. Lon Atkins says I haven't met you, he may be right... I can't remember now whether you were at the Tri-con or not. Wish I could have made the Ozarkon, I get most of the zines from that area and it seems like a great bunch.

Aha, another Judy Collins fan! I have all of her albums. She's never had a concert in this area, I don't think. My favorite from her last album, IN MY LIFE, is the long medley of songs from MARAT/SADE.

Hmm, I read further in S&S, I guess I haven't met you, if it had to be at a MidwestCon, I never made one. I agree with you about "Silent Night/Seven O'Clock News."

- STARLING #9 - Luttrell. Yes, "fair" censorship would be nice... But I don't believe in it. I can't think of anyone I would trust to decide what I should read, or see, or hear.

I will be on the lookout for HEAVENLY DISCOURSES. Your - uh... Joe Sander's review of it is interesting. Some of Wood's stuff is in the big anthology of reprints from the MASSES, ECHOES OF REVOLT, but none of them are "Heavenly Discourses".

Bliss's THE SPECIMENS is pretty good. Either fan fiction has improved or my judgement has declined, but there doesn't seem too be nearly as much bad fiction as there was a couple of years ago.

- CLIFFHANGERS - Norwood. If I had to trace an illo onto mimeo master, it would be hard work and the result probably unrecognizable, so that the question of plagiarism wouldn't arise... We'll have to wait til LA throws someone out for it, then we'll know it was plagiarism...

I had heard of Tolkien's THE MONSTERS AND THE CRITICS, but I've never had a chance to read it. Pity they didn't put it in the TOLKIEN READER. Speaking of JRRT, I just got Leonard Nimoy's 45rpm from Dot (45-17028), THE BALLAD OF BILBO BAGGINS. This is credited to one Grean, and is not very good. An inappropriate folk-rock tune, the instruments overpowering Nimoy's mediocre voice. Still, it is something, maybe they will do better later. I can't see why they had to write lyrics when there are so many good songs in the book itself that need only tunes. Fred Lerner just told me on the phone that while he was in Baltimore Chuck Rein had composed an excellent tune for "Over The Misty Mountains" (the second song in THE HOBBIT, pp27,28 of the Ballantine pb). We had been singing it to the tune of THE RED FLAG here...

- MEL 9 - Atkins. Seems you are right about Luttrell. Probably Ed Cox too, unless it was at Discon. MEL is beautiful even if small, TOF is great...

In spite of the Patt thing, I will vote for you for OE. Not only is no one else running, but you have done an excellent job at it.

- LOKI - Hulan. Glad to see it again. Loki was one of the first zines I saw when I first entered fandom. The G&S parody is fantastic! I enjoyed Lon's chess writings too, I always do, tho I haven't played a game in years.

= PATCHWORK - Katya. Thanks for the kind words on TNNNN#1! Your poems are good, especially the one on the back. Great job of hand-coloring, too. I'm trying to get Chuck Gwin to put some more art on master for me, he's lazy as hell.

The bit about "God is a nigger-lover" is good! And I am sure most churchgoers would be offended and utterly miss the point. Which is why I have given up going to church, among other reasons.

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JUST FOR THE HANK OF IT, and because my little SFPazine would look a bit odd with the rest of this page blank, I am going to review my latest accumulation of used books, picked up locally at 25¢-\$1 -

BLACK HEARTS IN BATTERSEA, Joan Aiken, Doubleday, New York, 1964, 240pp, illus by Robin Jacques. This is an enjoyable juvenile, set in the reign of James III. The illustrations by Robin Jacques are excellent, I think I mentioned earlier that I thought Jacques could illustrate Peake or Tolkien. Hea also did the illos for John Kier Cross's THE ANGRY PLANET, it's sequel THE RED JOURNEY BACK, and THE MAN IN MOONLIGHT, another historical novel like the present one. This is Joan Aiken's second in a series, apparently a sequel to THE WOLVES OF WILLOUGHBY CHASE. From what I have read, the plot appears to be a variation of the "lost heir" idea. The hero is a young painter of unbelievable virtue, but the other characters are fascinating.

A SPINNER IN THE SUN, Myrtle Reed, Putnam's, New York, 1907, 393pp. I haven't read but a little of this yet, I bought it mainly because it is beautiful. The binding is lavender, with names and an illo of leaves and a spiderweb in gold relief. The pages are deckle edged, and each has the chapter heading in red. From what I have read of the novel, it appears to be about a woman embittered because of a badly scarred face. It is well written and interesting. Apparently Myrtle Reed was much read at the time, ten other books are listed in the front, and this one went through six printings the first year.

ANT VENTURES, Blanche Elizabeth Wade, Rand McNally, Chicago, 1924, 246pp, illustrated by Harrison Cady. I suppose this could be called a fantasy. It concerns the adventures of a young ant and other small creatures, Disney-type stuff. The illos are very well done, five in full color, amny more in b&w. For some reason, I instantly recognize the typical faces on the animals, but I can't say where I saw them before.

SCIENCE, LIFE, AND LITERATURE, M. P. Shiel, Williams and Norgate, London, 1950, 217pp. This was Shiel's last book, he gave the manuscript to the editor, John Gawsorth, just before he died. I have not read any of Shiel's sf, I bought this mainly because it has a bibliography of Shiel's work which I wanted for my Collector's Bureau collection of references. I have read some of it though, and it is quite good. Matthew Phipps Shiel was crowned king of Redonda at the age of 15, and never got over it. Or so he says...

FAHRENHEIT

???

or, Will L.S.D. Burn?



This is not a review of the excellent film made from Bradbury's novel, FAHRENHEIT 451. But I assume most fans have seen the movie or read the book, and are familiar with the implied arguments for and against censorship. Though the film is admittedly somewhat emotionally loaded "against"...

It occurred to me towards the end of the movie that most or all of these same arguments, and indeed, most of the endless arguments in fanzines on the subject, apply equally well to the question of banning hallucinogenic drugs. "They are dangerous" say the authorities, "they will make you unhappy, they disturb the public order." And so they do, both the drugs and the books, and so they will! "They can push an unstable mind over the brink into madness and crime", cry the Eric Blakes(\*). And so they can, both the books and the drugs. But is the avoidance of danger always desirable? Should we not be unhappy sometimes, at some things? Must not the public order be disturbed occasionally?(\*) Can we limit the books to be read or the visions to be experienced to what is suitable for the unstable mind? In Bradbury's novel, this lead ultimately to the banning of all books, as all hallucinogens are banned today.

"But, but, but..." your average liberal will cry, "most books are useful and harmless!" This is beside the point. I am concerned here with the book and the drug that are possibly dangerous: LSD, BLOOD SACRIFICE TO THE LUST QUEEN OF THE FLAME RITE, MESCALINE, THE COMPLETE WORKS OF THE MARQUIS DE SADE, MARIJUANE, ON CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, etc. The question here then is, is the danger of these things sufficient to risk their loss if banned, considering that a successful ban is impossible and that the illicit goods will be even more dangerous than if they were sold openly? And who is to have the power to decide which ones?

The Eric Blakes and Anthony Comstocks will scream that pornography and drugs lead to moral decay and sex crimes and must be suppressed at any cost. But the causal relationship has not been proven. To me it appears equally likely that, for many individuals, drugs and pornography may just as well be a substitute for the sex they cannot get through "normal" channels, for one reason or another.

\*Since I wrote this, Boardman has revealed he set "Eric Blake" up as a hoax. But who set John Boardman up?

\*\*2 - Since I wrote this...Newark, Detroit, Plainfield, etc. Anything can be overdone!

So I can only conclude that the arguments against banning books which are dangerous apply equally well to the question of banning hallucinogenic drugs. We have about licked the censorship problem, or I thought we had until the Supreme Court decision on Ginsburg and EROS. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" someone said... We might as well demand "freedom of the consciousness" on the same basis, I can't see any significant difference.

— Ned Brooks —

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Thus endeth THE NEW PORT NEWS #2... may it please Ghu, and also SFPA.

For the OE counting page credit, I certify that all of the writing, also typing, herein is my own original work, allowance being made for quotes.

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...send him fanzines too, but keep in mind that he has the literary taste of Hank Reinhardt...

Back Cover (this page) is my own fault...

