

S.F. WEEKLY 191 JULY 17, 1967

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Victoria, Australia. Doompublishation #272. Stiles for TAFF!!! New York in '67!!!
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THE PICKERING STORY: CONTINUED: The latest word on Stephen Pickering, perhaps one of
the most bizarre people to ever explode onto the sf
fan scene, indicates that worthwhile results have come about because of his thefts
from the home of Forrest Ackerman, last December.

In a three page mimeographed letter, Pickering has set down what he calls a "history
of Mr. Pickering's past and present life." The details are at times sordid, in other
places amazing, and in some ways even unbelievable. However, Forrest Axkerman has pre-
faced Pickering's "Explanation" with a full page explanation, "For Those Who Got In
Late." Ackerman explains the details of Pickering's thefts and subsequent actions in
fandom (for the complete story, see Degler! #164, 165, 167) with an abbreviated explan-
ation of the part he played in the proceedings. Pickering, in his two page explanation,
attempts to set down some explanation of why he acted as he did. This reader finds
his home and personal life perhaps the most sordid of any I have knowledge of in fan-
dom. Pickering, recognizing this, states "...the December affair only added to a grow-
ing mental instability.

"So, by March, I began taking psychiatric counseling. On April 1st, I became a voloun-
teer patient at Camerillo State Hospital.

"What more can I say? I have gone to innumerable group therapy sessions...taking a closer
look at Stephen Pickering, his ideals, his hopes, his dreams. I cannot, of course, rat-
ionalize, nor ignore what happened in December. ... And, at least, Forry's wish has
come true: I am receiving psychiatric help."

There is much more to Pickering's statement. Copies can be obtained for a stamped, s.
a.e., from Vern Bennett, P.O. Box 705, Hawthorne, Calif., 90250.

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NEW WORLDS RECEIVES ARTS COUNCIL GRANT: New Worlds, the British sf magazine, has received
an arts council grant of 1,800 pounds, about
\$5,040 in American funds. In an article on the grant, the London Times for June 11th
noted that this grant is much larger than that allocated for other, less far-out mag-
azines. The Times noted that support for the grant came from such literary figures as
J.B. Priestley, Kenneth Alsop, Anthony Burgess, Professor Geoffrey Tillotson, and Angus
Wilson.

In an interview, Michael Moorcock, editor of New Worlds, (who has written 21 novels)
noted that "I use the novels to finance the magazine. But it's taking so much time I
can't write the potboilers to do it. They are bad novels. I am a little surprised we've
got this grant. I didn't know it was that sort of magazine."
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These Subscribers Must Renew Immediately: Bill Bowers, John Goldsmith, Mitchell Henson.
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One Issue Left: Jim Allen, David Chute, Fred Jackson III, Steve Silverberg, Mike Symes,
Mike Ward.

FANZINES RECEIVED: LOKI #10, edited and published by David G. Hulan, P.O. Box 1032, Canoga Park, Cal., 91304. Available for Letter of Comment, printable contribution of art or written material, trade, or 25¢. Well printed and written, the major part of this issue is occupied by a Gilbert & Sullivan parody.

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EAST VILLAGE OTHER REPORTS ON SAUCER CON: The East Village Other (EVO) for 15 July 67 carries an account of the saucer convention held recently in New York City. The report, written as by a demented sociology major, reflects a complete lack of grasp of the English language, although it does contain several interesting ideas. The article notes that "The role paranoia plays in saucerism is a sturdy which will be gotten into and documented in an up-coming issue of EVO."

John Boardman, contributor of a copy of the article, noted one paragraph where the possibility of creatures in the upper atmosphere, feeding on pure raw energy was envisioned. John's comment, from the viewpoint of a physics professor, is "there ain't no sech animal!"

Typical of the EVO's far-out approach, the article ends in gobledogook and double-meaning: "...saucerism, like everything else worth considering in this mythic time -- is a multi-leveled phenomenon encompassing aliens and apocalypse."

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STAR TREK DEPT.: In addition to the album, "Mr. Spock's Music From Outer Space," Leonard Nimoy has now recorded a single, "The Ballad of Bilbo Baggins." This is a 45 rpm record on the Dot label; in an interview on TV (Dateline Hollywood, July 4th), Nimoy, who appeared wearing a "Hobbits Of The World, Unite" button, said that if there was enough interest in the Tolkien single, he would do an album of Tolkien songs. ((thanx, Shirley Meech))

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Correction (#72): Last issue featured a further report on WesterCon 20, including the sentence, "...the convention generally had excellent relations with the Sheraton-Wilshire." Redd Boggs notes that, while this may be true, the hotel for the convention was the Sheraton-West. Reports are that the convention had excellent relations with that hotel also...

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WALT DISNEY DEPT.: While plans for awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Walt Disney (posthumously) for his contributions to world peace have perhaps bogged down, plans are now afoot to have a Walt Disney stamp issued. The movement is sponsored by New Yorker Saul Jeffee, and has the support of such noted political experts as Sen. George Murphy (R-Calif.) and California Gov. Ronald Reagan. The proposal is currently under study by the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, a group which guides the post office in deciding which men, machines or animals to honor. An editorial on the subject in the July 3rd issue of the New York Post advises "A little nudge from the public might help the committee do the right thing for a right guy." Perhaps -- but would you like to mail a letter with a picture of Donald Duck on it?

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OZARKON SCHEDULED: The 1967 Ozarkon SF. Louis SF Conference will be held July 28-30 at the Ben Franklin Motor Hotel, 825 Washington, St. Louis, Mo., 63101. Room rates: single: \$7-11; twin: \$9-13. Registration is \$2, payable now or at the conference. If you wish to pay now, send \$2 to Rich Wannan C/O Couch, Rte. 2, Box 889, Arnold, Mo., 63010. The conference will include a luncheon banquet, to be held Saturday afternoon; the price will be \$4.50. More details next week.

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ALBUQUERQUE SF GROUP ELECTS: The Albuquerque SF Group held it's semi-annual election at the beginning of July. Bob Vardeman was elected Moderator over Gordon Benson. This is the only official post the club has. Vardeman's first official act after receiving the gavel from retiring Moderator Roy Tackett was to collect dues for the first time in 6 months.