

stellar 17

COMBINED WITH GAFIA #13 & DIMENSIONS

is published by Ted E. White, who receives his mail yet still at 1014 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Va. Published weekly, and distributed, as a rule, with RUMBLE. Like, free.

THIS IS THE FIRST of the new-order STELLAR's to begin the clean-up policy on the old S. Printed on the following three pages are the letters which were cut to appear in S#15. In addition to those letters, I also have on hand a story by Walt Willis, destined for next issue, and a column by Harlan Ellison, which will probably appear in the following issue.

That will take care of the material already stencilled for the old STELLAR. After that, there may be some other articles or stories, as I see fit. I planned to continue Bob Madle's A FAKEFAN IN LONDON, which was begun in S#14, but I see no sense in it, since he's also been sending that column to Lynn Hickman for distribution in OMPA and Hickman has been covering SAPS and other US fen pretty thoroly as well. I can't see printing something everyone has already read.

IT LOOKS LIKE FANAC IS ON THE UPSWING, and I don't mean the Carr-Ellick FANAC, either. With Kent Moomaw working on the revived ABERRATION, which he plans as a monthly or six-weekly, John Hitchcock is working on a new zine which he plans as a monthly. It will be financed by John Magnus, and produced by Hitchcock. John describes it as a "faaanish monthly". Hitchcock has also started cutting stencils for THE BNF OF IZ.

Two monthly fanzines of decent size (over twenty pages) should make for quite a change in fandom. (Of course I should have said faaandom, since we already have CRY and YANDRO as monthlies...)

LIVING IN BALTIMORE, without radio, TV, or newspapers (Balto's papers are crudsheets--I read the DC papers when I drop by 1014 on weekends), one becomes temporally isolated, cut off from the morass of national- and world-events. This was strongly brought home to me when all the ruccuss in the mideast stirred up. I was sitting on a cot at "419", a hangout for student musicians, fans, and just plain people, talking with John Hitchcock, Diana, and Mrs. Saunders. The subject of the US troupes sent over came up, and I found myself totally in the dark about what was really going on, but with a startled realization, as John explained what had happened, that WW3 might be just around the corner, and that a new Hitler had sprung up.

No one regarded Hitler seriously--except those too close to him--when he began his annexation of countries in the late thirties. Yet, he differs little from the new Hitler we see leading the Arab Union, and his aims aren't really different at all. It is a sobering thought to realize that a Third World War could be precipitated on the next few months, weeks, or even days, and that cut off from things as I usually am, I might not realize it until I heard the bombs... Of such are nightmares made.

Ironic, though, that Eisenhower has now duplicated the move he deplored of Truman in 1950. It makes a difference, I guess, depending on the party you belong to...

Due to my desire to type up this column before the previous issue has been in the mail for over a week, once again the letters are primarily concerned with issue #13. I think this staggered-letter bit will work out quite satisfactorily, but it may nip a few feuds in the waiting period. As with issue 14, when this format was originated, the wide column (with the exception of this opening, and a possible closing) will be composed of letters from you the readers, and the narrow column will contain my more voluminous comments. Extremely short editorial replies will be in brackets, [as so]. (These brackets are of a legal variety, and I assure you I don't care to have them so low eather.) The point has been raised that by answering the letters in such detail as I do, I deprive you of replying. I can't see any solution to this, for I heartily enjoy ripping into and answering letters. On then, to

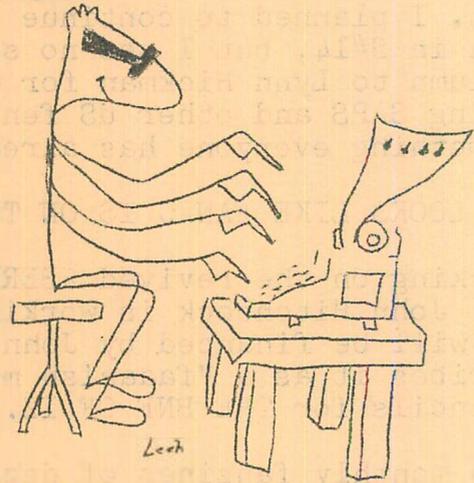
BOB SILVERBERG

Thanks for STELLAR #13. I read it with interest, and hope you'll keep me on the mailing list a while longer. I see you've turned the mag into an all-out generalzine, which from my viewpoint is fine; the original idea of printing only fiction-about-fans was an interesting one, but in practice it produced a lot of woeful crud and only a small residue of meaningful work.

Of course, I guess this issue can't be representative of the new STELLAR, since it consists mostly of ancient handmedowns from DIMENSIONS circa 1954. Of the batch, I most enjoyed Randy's article, of which more anon; Van Dell seemed hopelessly out of date, while the Ellison piece was marred for me by two characteristics that don't show up in his writing too often any more: his fondness for circumlocutions ("information is a commodity flowing in abundance through our everyday life," a sentence which is about 75% redundant--"information is abundant" is enough) and his strange streak of violent puritanism (as in the attack on "Torture Garden.")

The Garrett piece, which I read in manuscript a few years back, is one that should have been printed somewhere long ago. [Both Ron Smith and Lee Riddle had their chance.] It's a superb analysis of the sort of story-mangling that goes on all the time at some of our magazines--something that no fan really realizes until he sells something himself. Not all the editors are guilty, by any means; Campbell, for one, virtually never changes as much as a comma in an accepted script, while Boucher scrupulously requests author's permission before making alterations. A couple of other editors are freer with the pencil, but generally comport themselves in a skilful way (a couple of times I found that Larry Shaw had made changes in some of my yarns which were so subtle and fitting that I was patting myself on the back for having turned such a neat phrase...until I realized that I hadn't.) But there are two or three magazines--oddly, among the lowest-paying in the field--where a published story bears only accidental relationship to the purchased script. And the maligned author generally has no recourse unless he decides to include his original version in a short-story collection someday, with a nasty little footnote explaining what happened. I don't mind when a skilled editor and writer like Horace Gold tinkers with a manuscript of mine; more often than not, the changes he makes are for the better. But when the office-boy or the publisher's elderly uncle or elevator operators are allowed to do the editing on a magazine, I usually take my wares elsewhere quickly enough.

Oh, well. Enough griping for now. All best, Bob
(915 West End Ave., New York 25, N.Y.)



Receiving a letter like this is as much a pleasure as printing Garrett's article was.

Response from the inserted "appeal" in #13 was good, as witness the following agonized replies...

BOB TUCKER

Does that mean me too?

(Box 702, Bloomington, Ill.)

ISAAC ASIMOV

Your piteous plea for letters could not go unanswered by anyone with as soft a heart as I.

Now, Izaac, your name has been included, and misspelled...

So here is a letter and one remark; I went through the issue and not once was my name misspelled—or even included.

(45 Greenough St., West Newton 65, Mass.)

ROBERT BLOCH

Of course STELLAR is worth a postcard, and a good deal more...but I've had the flu, and am still battling a bad cold as an aftermath. With the result that I'm way behind on work and regular correspondence, let alone other obligations (which is what I've done: let 'em a-

lone). But I liked the present issue...for that matter, you might tell Magnus, if you happen to see him, that I've enjoyed his newsletter, too. I'm giving both a mention in the FANDORA'S BOX column presently in work—tho of course it won't see print until early spring, schedules being what they are (fouled up, that is). Hoping you are the same, Bob.

LETTERS:

(Box 362, Weyauwega, Wis.)

And Having Writ...

GM CARR

If you read that insert again, you'd find that I said it could be ignored if you had commented on #12, which you did.

I can see the bright-eyed neo now: "Hey Mom! I made FANAC UNLTD.'s First List!"

I secretly revel in it...

By all means count me in, Ted--didn't I send you a big, fat letter on the last one? (Maybe it was one of those that came late?) Hye, man--that's some idea you've got there! In FANAC UNLTD., I mean. It's the neo's dream all cut out for him (ah, what N3F wouldn't have given for something like that way back when they had up to 400 00's to get out). I mean, the most valuable part of all is that these labels provide a place to send the stuff and that has always been the problem for the beginner. Maybe it will have charm for the tired old faaan, too--I dunno. Personally, addressing the fmz has never presented much of a chore for me, but then it might to others. (Horrible that: which of those lists am I on--if any! Good Chu, man, do you realize you may be perpetrating a caste system worse than Mrs. Vanderbilt's "400"?????) Maybe I'm wrong but it seems to me the material in this is unusually high in interest value--and even obviously dated items such as the Van Dull article are eminently readable in spite of age. Congrats. Also congrats on getting Harlan E. [He came with the package] His stuff has matured wonderfully. More please. [See this.] PS: Such is the price of fame...who knows, you might even get to like being known as "the guy with 10,000 comics."

(5319 Ballard Ave., Seattle, 7, Wash.)

NAN GERDING

I am enclosing enuf (I hope) money for the next six issues of STELLAR. [Actually, you were 5¢ over...] I reckon you could call my subscription the coward's way out, but I simply don't have the time to comment on fanzines. I want STELLAR to continue to appear in my mailbox tho, and this is the quickest way I know to accomplish that. So now I'll be

getting STELLAR and SKYHOOK on a regular basis. I hope this doesn't get to be a habit. I've deliberately discouraged fanzines from coming my way but occasionally I run across one that hooks me. SKYHOOK did. STELLAR did. I am flattered. that's all, I hope.

Sincerely, Nangee
(Box 145, Roseville, Illinois)

BOYD RAEBURN

Guess I'd better comment on STELLAR 13 so I won't be cut off the list. Actually, I don't blame you for getting tough on this. My own mailing list changes every issue of A BAS.

Ellison's article entertaining reading, but pretty lightweight. Is this a new item freshly done by Ellison, or something dug out of the vaults? [The latter.]

Hocha. In commenting to Elinor Busby on POLARITY, I remarked that comparing the Midwestcon reports in YANDRO and POLARITY, one would think they were of totally different conventions, and now your Franklin Ford says the same thing. As I remember from the YANDRO reports, those "some Canadians" were Denis Campbell and Bill Grant. Campbell got a lift with Grant to the Con, and Campbell is thick with the Indiana fans ever since they stuck together in mutual loneliness at the 1955 Midwestcon. The Indiana report of that con was amusing in a sad sort of way. They reported that they arrived on the Friday evening, and nothing was going on, and everything dead and all. What actually was going on was a wild fannish gathering at the Karus motel, but the Indiana group, being I*N*D*I*A*N*A fans and thus never having much to do with any but other Indiana fans would never dream of looking for any of the faans at the party, because they didn't know them, which of course was their own fault. Personally, I don't give a damn if the Indiana fans want to stick in a close little group and have very little contact with other than Indiana fans. Coulson does seem to be a bit of an exception, though. I have recently read through six recent issues of YANDRO at one sitting, and I got the feeling that Coulson is way down deep a faaan, but that Indiana has been too much for him. Sure, he's a bit pompous and opinionated, but he seems to realize that there are fans outside Indiana. Not many, mind you, but a few, you know?

It wasn't necessary, since you commented on #12, and I'll let it go an issue, at least, but I'm always glad to get letters, even if not required. Come to think of it, we're trading, anyway!

Hmmm. Better watch out, or they'll be accusing you of being Franklin Ford!

Could write more, but time is very short, and anyway, you owe me a letter.

Regards, Boyd
(9 Glenvally Drive, Toronto 9, CANADA)

There were a few other letters, but these were all I had stencilled. Next issue will be an all-Walt Willis issue, with the--at long last--publication of MIKE HAMMER AT THE CLEVENTION. Illustrations will be by Naaman Peterson.

UP TILL NOW, I've devoted GAFIA/STELLAR to fairly fannish or stfish subjects. But coming up with something new to say, without repeating myself too much, each issue is not easy. In effect, it is like writing a two-to-four-page editorial every week, and on top of my other fanac, this is becoming harder to do.

Sure, I can--and have at times--always take the easy way out by quoting letters or clippings, or just passing along bits of semi-interesting news. But this isn't FANAC...it's not even RUMBLE. It's a sort of unique publication devoted to stuff I feel like printing.

And for that reason, you can look forward to seeing in future issues articles or reviews of/on jazz, comments on books read, or perhaps even a spot of fiction--not necessarily by myself. The policy is loosening up. Be warned...!

-tew

