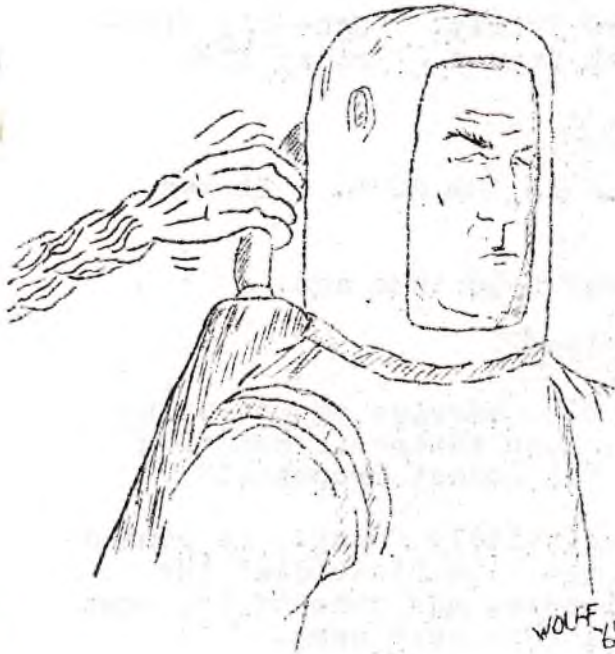


SUCH AND SUCH

#3



WOLFE 75

MAILING COMMENTS

WARLOCK (Larry Montgomery) Sorry to find this so short this time. Say--I recieved two copies...I didn't short someone else, did I?

INVADER (Joe Staton) I saw ROBINSON CRUSOE ON MARS a few weeks ago --which is surprising, really, because I never (well, hardly ever) go to movies.

But for some reason or another, I did go to this one. I thought it was pretty fair--only a few things really bothered me. Remember when the orbiting spaceship zoomed over head? Remember how it roared? Now, maybe I'm just not up on this kind of thing, but I have never heard one of our satellites make noises like that.

And at the end--you recall, of course, how our Robinson Crusoe had made his way to the ice cap, pursued by the flying saucers. For some reason which I am unable to recall, the ice cap was melted down. (Perhap the saucers did it with thier horrible heat rays?) Anyway, as 'THE END' flashed over the screen, we see the earth ship about to make a landing and rescue R.C. About to make a landing right on the newly melted ice cap. The kid that was with me got a big kick out of that--I did to, for that matter. We could just see it:

"We are saved! Hurray! etc." said R.C.

" Big fire-ship land on water." observed Friday. "Ugh--big fire-ship sink--Ugh, Friday not want to go Earth anyway. Friday like Mars."

Later that same week I saw THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON. It was also very good, better, in fact.

I also saw DR. STRANGELOVE, thought that was some time ago.

What was that about
you never see movies?

I'm almost sure that the sense featureing U.S. service men shooting at each other were meant to be offensive. Much satire is meant to be offensive. Have you ever read Swift's " A Modest Proposal?"

I thought that guy commanding the bomber was wildly funny. He reminded me quite a bit of a person I work for. I think his riding the bomb down, along with the climax of the picture, was some of the most inspired satire--humor, if you will--that I have ever seen.

SENTINEL #1 (Dave Locke)

One thing I don't feel like being right at the moment is constructively critical. Sorry, Mr. Williams. One comment, though--your WEAPON seemed pointless. I guess I'm mis-reading it, but then what can you expect from a semi-illiterate.

I've heard that last joke of yours before...only the first time, instead of a space opera, it was a western, and about 20 minutes longer. The person who told it to me was an expert at that sort of thing, and the climax almost ruined my lunch.

OUTRE (Kent McDaniel) ...and who is Ahmed Ben Lester?

Why didn't I join earlier? Well..the time wasn't right. I didn't want to go and join every other apa until I had publishing equipment of my own. And then, as I said in such and such #1, the fact that I would get page credit for my article in IT if I joined seemed too good to pass up.

I don't see why people^{LET}/little things like missing pages in a magazine worry them. If I had gotten that bad copy of THE MAGAZINE OF HORROR, I would have written the publisher and asked for a good one. I would almost bet money they would have sent it to you. I have never had any trouble with publishers.

Not being able to get to a newstand is no excuse for not buying a magazine--gosh, if I counted on newstands for my magazines, I would have never known science fiction magazines existed. I read all of the science fiction magazines, and I very seldom if ever see them on a newstand. You see, I use a secret, little known method of getting copies. It's really quite handy. Not only do you get the issues in question early and without fail, you save money. What is this secret method? I subscribe....

LOKI (Dave Hulan)

In re Cox's MOVIES, SCIENCE FICTION THEREIN Dept.

Somehow, desiding which movie is going to be best by looking at the title seems to be a less-than-desirable practice.

Speacking of movies, has anyone out there seen a movie about these guys that get shrunk down and take a trip through this feller's blood stream?--our local paper mentioned it in a short article, and seemed to suggest that it wasn't half bad, which is unusual, seeing as how they generally don't mention the fantasy films anywhere except the paid ads.

I suppose that nothing as similar to standard westerns as Staton's story could sell to modern sf markets, but I bet it could have sold to, oh, say PLANET not too long ago.

It was written quite well for fan fiction, but I don't think I really like the theme. Surly you aren't suggesting that to be a Real Man, one must be able to kill people? Or are you pulling our legs?

MORE PAGE CREDIT

When I try to comment on everyone's fanzines, or when I start writing on things that really don't move me to comment on, my stuff stops

being bad and starts being terrible. So, I make it a practice now just to comment on things I want to comment on, and nothing else. Last time, I rambled on quite a bit, this time, that wasn't quite the case.

I wish I wasn't like this. I realize what an important part of an apa mailing comments are, and if I thought I could do a decent job with them, I would make an attempt to be much more complete. But I can't.

Anyway, I have a few more lines/pages to fill up, so you people are going to have to read some of my magazine reviews.

F&SF Feb. 65

This issue surprised me, delighted me, even. I liked many of the stories in it--for a while there, that hadn't been the case with F&SF.

The short novel by Poul Anderson was good; as are almost all Poul Anderson stories. It was called MARQUE AND REPRISAL, and the editor claimed that's its complete in itself. It isn't really, it's the first part of a novel which will be completed with two other 'complete short novels' which are forthcoming in F&SF. It promises much in the way of things to come.

The second most interesting story was Robert M. Green, Jr.'s THE DEADEYE DICK SYNDROME. At times, I thought it was a bit over done. Deadeye Dick, Mr. Green says, is a character from Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. PINAPORE. For no apparent reason, everyone in the play hates poor Dick as soon as they see him, even though he is just a friendly little guy trying to be helpful.

A character in this story uses a Fortean theory to explain this; and suddenly, everyone hates our poor hero with a violence which seems utterly impossible.

The story isn't perfect, but it is sometimes rather effective. I have had several dreams, nightmares(?) based on it. I guess I live in fear of people not liking me or something.

Robert F. Young and Cavin Demmon have stories here that aren't at all bad. Miriam Allen deFord's story, "The Absolutely Perfect Murder" was the only story that proved distasteful.

One of my favorite artists, Jack Gauchan, provides the cover, and it is a striking one---most of his covers are.

WORLDS OF IF SCIENCE FICTION FEB 65

I've said many times that I was a fan of A. E. van Vogt. I've more or less liked almost everything I've ever read by him. Except "The Replicators", which appears in this issue of IF; which I found utterly unreadable. (But I read it anyway.)

((This stencil I put in just now looks like its ten years old. I hope it works alright. Looks alright. We shall see.)))

I sort of think van Vogt might have been suffering under the repeated charge that all his characters are card board stereotypes when he wrote this story. He seems to have taken great pains in drawing the characters, and said characters aren't quite the average van Vogt supermen. Unfortunately, they are still card board stereotypes, though perhaps a little better drawn and a bit different.

As if to make up for the increased characterization, the plot is a simple one, not at all like the average van Vogt story. It is also trite and uninteresting. In fact, the whole story is trite and uninteresting.

I should mention that although van Vogt seems to have spent more time on the characters, they aren't any better. Instead of being unimportant actors in an interesting background, they are silly and unreasonable.

The other novelettes, "Small One" by E. Clayton McCarty, and "Gree's Cammandos" by C. C. McApp, are simply average, undistinguished magazine science fiction. While not bad, as in "The Replicators" case, they are not very memorable.

Ron Goulart writes very funny stories. My favorites deal with the occult investigators. In this issue of IF you'll find REPORTERS AT LARGE, which is funny, but not as much so as many other Goulart stories.

The two other short stories present are Basil Well's "Blind Alley" and J. L. Frye's "Zombie." The last is both the better story and by one of IF's "first-story authors."

The second part of STARCHILD by Fred Pohl and Jack Williamson is contained in this issue. I can't very well comment on just this part of the novel, so I'll mention that I have read both other parts, and comment on the novel as a whole.

You may remember THE REEFS OF SPACE by the same two authors. STARCHILD is a sequel to REEFS.

The first novel was pretty fair. It was almost a Pohl comment-on-the-times, much like the Pohl-Kornbluth books. At the same time, it was a good adventure story, and contained, if the reader was in the right mood, more than a little of that particular type of mammoth concept and fascinating imagination I call a sense of wonder.

STARCHILD, on the other hand, has little in common with the Pohl-Kornbluth books. Instead, it goes of a lot about Freedom and Basic Rights and such like, using a lot of old tired thoughts on the same subjects. This book has very little to offer the Kingsley Amises of the world. The novel concentrates more on the adventure and the

"particular type of mammoth concepts and fascinating imagination I call a sense of wonder."

It isn't as good as the first story, but I liked it.

Morrow does his usual good job of illustrating several of the stories among them STARCHILD.

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