

12-13-54

That was quite an UNDERTAKINGS -- in fact, it would seem too much of an "undertaking" for the stapler used, inasmuch as I had to re-staple the whole thing in order to read it. Aside from that, it arrived in good condition; legible, if not particularly neat. A little more white paper around the edges would have helped the latter, since a too-crowded format tends toward monotony.

The contents were too voluminous to permit of detailed comment -- which is, perhaps, just as well. However, I found Hal Anna's Story "The High Psi Drive" interesting from the angle that the author was able to resist the obvious cliché-ending. It has become almost as standard in plot casting to unravel marital problems by reshuffling the partners as it seems to be becoming in real life, judging from the soaring divorce rates. I am glad to see at least one author with enough stamina to refrain from such an easy ~~exit~~.... Aside from that, I have only one other comment on the story: I felt he stereotyped the opposition to the idea of a "test tube baby". A little more care in depicting the characters who ~~XXXX~~ abhorred ~~XY~~ the android in the vat would have given reality to the problem. However, in that case it wouldn't have appeared in UNDERTAKINGS but more likely in IMAGINATION....

There was one untitled, un-paged article which purported to be an excerpt from a Phillip Wylie book entitled TOMORROW. Although my opinion of Phillip Wylie's writing is very low (just one cut above Micky Spillane's), I cannot believe that Wylie could possibly have been guilty of such sloppy thinking and even sloppier spelling.... For instance, I am quite sure no editor of a professional newspaper (much less any pre-author) would have utilized such terms as "presumed quilt" "dellemma" "loberty" "Iron Curtin" "polecy".... As to the sloppy thinking, well -- I don't know. So many persons of presumed intelligence indulge in mental fog when it comes to attempting to think neatly and clearly that the very word "fugghead" has come into use to describe them. If this article was truly written by Phillip Wylie (and merely distorted out of credibility by amateur typing) it places him square in the front ranks of the world's great fuggheads. How he could twist the President's plea that all citizens should turn away from cynical indifference to civic and political graft and corruption and search their own souls for a sense of responsibility toward their God and their country into an attempt to enforce some pietistic "conformity" onto the people -- only a fugghead knows. How he could analyze the failure of the citizenry of this nation to live up to the ideals of this nation -- and then fail to see that the reason for their failure lay in the abandonment of these same ideals...again, only a fugghead knows.

Mittlebuscher's reviews were interestingly different -- interesting in that they reveal as much of Mittlebuscher as they do of the fanzines reviewed. However, the idea of taking a half dozen of the best and giving them intensive reviews instead of attempting to review the entire field is a good one. Even when one does not agree with them.

Guess that's all the comment I have time for this time....

Christmas Greetings,



G.M. Carr