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VERTIGO #22 is the 21st issue of the Official Organ of the Carolina Fan Federation. This issue is to promote the July 21, 1974 Durham mini-con. Editor, typesetter: Edwin L. Murray, 2540 Chapel Hill Rd, Durham, N C 27707. Publisher: Scott Whiteside, Box 26532, Raleigh, NC 27611. Price: 35¢ For directions call: (919) 489 6239. This issue pubbed on July 6.  
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under the elm tree

#### WHAT? LATE AGAIN? Dept

Here we go again with another new issue of VERTIGO, the fanzine that dares to be late, every issue. Like everyone else we are having trouble finding time to do everything we have to do and are months behind in our reading, filing, letter-writing, etc. We have comics in our unread stack that have been sitting there since last summer. Ghu knows how many of you are ready to give up on me for not answering your letters. There are about 900 pounds (or 12 feet) of newspapers in the middle of the floor downstairs that must be processed and have the comics pages removed. I am a month behind in reading MFG. Let it be noted that Terry is farther behind in everything than elm is. With any luck we will catch up about 1976 and then VERTIGO will come out on time.

There are a lot of things happening in the area so we will devote much of this issue to area cons, clubs, fanzines, etc. As many of you already realize, a good percentage of the membership of the CFF comes from Va so with this issue we put a bit more emphasis on Va affairs. Included this time around are plugs for two Va clubs and notes on the recent Richmond mini-con. As was the case last issue, our feature article will be material stolen from another source. This time around we have a piece on little known facts about Popeye's early life. Who was "Whaler Joe"? How did Popeye first go to sea? How did he lose his eye? All this and more will be revealed in the article. Don't blame me if a lot of it doesn't make sense.

#### CON JOB Dept

Durham mini-con XXIV will be held at the old watering hole, 2540 Chapel Hill Road. Featured (?) will be "The Gentle Old Madman," an Upchurch Bros. film. It will be shown in the Foot Of The Stairs Theater, famous for innumerable slide shows, at 12:00 and 2:00. More on this later. There is no other program so there should be plenty of time left for the usual con activities. There is no admission charge though we do ask for a donation to help cover refreshments, VERTIGO, and the official con photos.

#### THE WAY IT WAS Dept

Durham mini-con XXIII was held on April 7, 1974 and drew a crowd of around 60 people. There were a number of new faces as well as a couple of "ole timers" who hadn't come in a while. George Chastain came up from SC with some of his fine weird mood art. Among the people who did come were: Yance Parrish, Peter Hirschman, Linda & Scott Whiteside, Bill Starnes, David Kelly, Betty Stinson, H C Goodwin, David Southerland, Clai Smisson, Robert Rubin, Gene Massey, Richard & Mike Llewellyn, William Wilson Goodson, David Williamson, Mark & Alan Upchurch, Linda Batts, Norman Hunter, John Allison, Clay Kimball, Jerry Minter, Richard & Mildred Minter, George Chastain, Jeanne Goodman, Milton Read, Carl Oliver, Dave Drake, Douglas Faunt, Ben Brown, Arlan Andrews, Andy Andrews, Paul Harwitz, John Squires, Karl Wagner, Ross Kubeny, Elaine White, David Ortman, Jacquelyn Kelly Freas, Gordon Briscoe, Ned Brooks, Jim Sanford,

George Beahn, Milo Holt, Bob & Ellie from Raleigh, Bill Homovoc, C. Hales, Eric Larsen, Candice Emmel, Z. Baker, Stephanie & Bob Stoy, Brian Nelson, York Phelps, Jimmy & Sharon Wade, Tim Blenkarn, Terry, and elm.

YES VIRGINIA, THERE IS A....Dept

As I said before, a sizable percentage of you reading this come from Va, more than from any other state except NC, so it is about time we started having a section of news and other bits for our friends from north of the border.

On June 22, 1974 Richmond mini-con II was held in the Universal (Motors) back lot off Broad Street. It was a sunny day and a good crowd showed up to get sunburned at this unique outdoor con. All of the major fannish centers of Va were well represented in attendance and quite a few of those there were regulars from the Durham mini-cons. NC had a small contingent there. There were 15 or more dealers there with a little something for everyone. If you missed this one you should write to be put on the mailing list for the announcements of the next one in a few months. Write to V. T. Gilligan at the Richmond Book Shop, 808 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va 23220 for more info.

November 28, 1973 saw the formation of The Nelson Bond Society in Roanoke, Va. It is a club for s-f, comics, film, etc fans in the Roanoke Valley area and has a membership of over 65 from that part of Va. The meetings are held monthly and are regularly attended by Nelson Bond, the well known pulps author. The Jinnia Clan Journal is their newsletter and a separate fanzine is planned. For more information write Fred R. Eichelman, 545 Howard Dr, Salem, Va. (Many thanks to Richard Hurt for telling us about this new club.)

Another club you might be interested in is the Southern Virginia Science Fiction Association. They have already had one con and another is planned for sometime next Fall/Winter. MICROSCOPIUM is the official fanzine for the group and costs 40¢ or 6/92. For more info write to Sandra W. Dodd, Route 1 Box 399, Charlotte Court House, Va 23923.

Those of you interested in Robert E. Howard might be interested in KEMUPA, the Robert E. Howard United Press Association, an apa for those who are so inclined. For more info write Tim C. Marion, 614 72nd Street, Newport News, Va. 23605. Tim also publishes Solt Goze, a genzine available for the usual. (It is sometimes more recognizable as Solt Goze due to the type face used.)

NUCLEUS #8 is the latest issue of the offset fanzine from Mark Wheatley and is available for \$1.25 from 3640 Wright Road, Portsmouth, Va. 23703. This issue is mostly fan strips and stories with a good scattering of pro art and a section on the Gor series. If you like fan strips you might want to give this zine a try. It has been improving steadily with each issue.

In other Va notes, thanks go to Gary Groth for donating a couple of his fine publications to the CFF. Gary is working on a new zine called WORK BALLOONS and we will have more on it when it comes out.

Tom Long is also working on some exciting new projects involving strips about new characters done by well known artists. He now has an art studio and it will only be a matter of time before we start hearing about these new creations.

George Beahn stopped by and stayed with us for a couple of days while on his way to ROTC camp at Fort Bragg this summer. We managed to keep him busy while he was here and had a fine time doing it.

#### NORTH CAROLINA: STATE OF THE FILMS Dept

As I stated before, we will have two showings of the Upchurch Bros. film "The Gentle Old Madman" at the next mini-con. The film runs 35 to 40 minutes and was shot in Super-8 color with magnetic sound. It is a sequel to their earlier film "The Gentle Old Man" ('72) which had live/improvised sound at every showing. The screenplay was written by Alan Upchurch and Thomas Abramson. Mark repeats his role as Arthur Grinsdyke, the old man, while Alan has to settle for being "producer, director, writer, & star." Various scenes were shot on location around Durham at such exotic spots as Watts Hospital, the Durham Police Station, Duke Gardens, and the parking garage. The film was the subject of a newsreel shown on WTVD in May and has been shown to everyone they could pay to watch it. The story involves the escape of Grinsdyke from an asylum and the series of hatchet murders that follows. Carl Kolchak (played by Alan Upchurch) is the reporter who sets out to investigate the case and halt the murders.

On the professional level we have rising young filmmaker Alan Adler. Alan lives in Charlotte and is a producer/editor of commercials for WBTV. In addition to his work in special effects/props on "The Body Shop" he has worked on two movies currently in release. He was assistant director for "Hot Summer In Barefoot County" from The Preacherman Film Group. I understand the movie is better than it sounds and better than the TV spot that features a run past and fall down fight. Alan and his lovely wife Carolyn made a cameo appearance at the end of the movie. The film was shot in North Carolina. Alan also wrote the screenplay (or at least one version of it) for "Challenge" from the E.O. Film Group. The movie stars and was made by Shelby millionaire Earl Owensby and was also shot in North Carolina. I understand that Alan has an s-f movie in the planning stages and that the Upchurch brothers may have some small part in it. The title is "Sex Fiend From Outer Space" or "I Was a Teenage Sex Fiend From Outer Space" or something like that. Alan is also putting the finishing touches on his book of movie posters. Most of the posters will be s-f or horror from the 1950s and 1960s.

#### PUBLICATIONS Dept

WHISPERS #3 came out about the time of the last mini-con and due to its quarterly schedule another is due out roughly about the time of the next con. WHISPERS is a digest sized fanzine devoted weird fiction and art and articles on same. The third issue featured Lee Brown Coye. It had a folio of his work, appreciations by Stuart Schiff and Gahan Wilson, a story based on Coye by Karl Wagner, and all sorts of other goodies. Also featured was a story by Dave Drake that was the subject of the cover illo by Coye. Dave is now Stuart Schiff's assistant editor on WHISPERS. I can safely say that WHISPERS is the best fanzine to come out of NC. The price is \$1.50 a copy or \$5.50 for a four issue sub. Order from Stuart David Schiff, 5508 Dodge Drive, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303 and mention VERTIGO when you do.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE MORNILITH is the newsletter of the Nameless Order of R'lyeh and has recently been revived under the editorship of Eric Larson (4012 Colby Drive, Raleigh, N. C. 27609). It comes out every other week to announce the next Nameless Order meeting and often includes bits of news and other tidbits. Those interested in getting SHADOW should write Eric and enclose some \$4 with the request to pay for postage, etc. I am sure you all remember Eric for his articles in past issues of VERTIGO.

Eric Larsen is looking for some of the early back issues of VERTIGO so if any of you can part with yours we can guarantee they will have a good home. He needs #1-7 #10 & #11.

ETERNITY SCIENCE FICTION #3 is now out from Stephen Gregg, P O Box 193, Sandy Springs, SC 29677 and is available for \$1. It follows in the fine tradition of the old semi-pro s-f mags and is a very attractive zine. Featured this issue are stories by Roger Zelazny, Barry Malzberg, David Bunch, and others. It also has a fine Steve Fabian cover and an interview with Kate Wilhelm in addition to the usual reviews, poetry, and spot illos. ETERNITY is worth supporting and especially so since it is from the area.

#### THE BIG CON Dept

For the first time in many years and the last time for many more years the SF WorldCon will be held in the area, in Washington to be exact. It will be held over the Labor Day weekend and is already guaranteed to have a good representation by area fan. I didn't join until I got a vacation schedule worked out so I don't have much info on hand about the Con itself. Attending membership is \$7.00 and should be sent to Discon 2, Box 31127, Washington, DC 20031. Roger Zelazny is the Guest of Honor. Let me just say that it is not to be missed if you can help it because you won't get another chance like this for many years.

The week before the WorldCon is the traditional time for the annual DeepSouthCon. This year it will be held at the Sheraton Biltmore in Atlanta. The con is billed as a S-F Mardi Gras where you can stay in costume the whole time if you want. GCHs are Thomas B. Swann, Joe Green, and Poul Anderson. Memberships are \$7.50 and can be ordered from Sam Gastfriend, Box 8192, Atlanta, Ga. 30306. You are reminded that the Southern Fandom Confederation meets at DSC and the new year for dues begins after the con.

#### FOLKS AROUND HERE Dept

It seems that you people are always on the move and we are always hearing that one or more of the people on our mailing list have moved. This issue is no exception. Here are some new addresses: Paul Harwitz, 314 North Broom St, Wilmington, Del 19805. Richard Hurt, 2263 Mountain View Ter., Apt 12, Roanoke, Va 24015. David Anthony Kraft, % Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Ave, NYC 10022. Bill Pearce, 1421 Gorman St, Raleigh, NC 27606. Betty Stinson has enlisted and the best way to get her current military address is to contact someone in the Nameless Order. Pat Gabriele has moved again but we don't have his latest address. . . I am told that Zach Hughes, author of The Legend of Hiaree, is from NC. Can anyone supply his address so we can put him on the mailing list? . . . Paul Harwitz and Eric Larsen are working on a Friends of NASA project so any of you with a soft spot for the space program should get in touch with them. . . Karl Wagner has sold another Kane book to Warner Paperback Library so those of you who have read his first two books have something to look forward to. I believe the title is "Bloodstone." . . .

#### FOR STRIPPERS ONLY Dept

The newsstand price of the Charlotte News and the Charlotte Observer went up from 10¢ a day to 15¢ daily and if the subscription rates follow suit we will have to find another way to get copies of the work James Childress does for the News. The sub price is already too high at \$51 a year. If any of you Charlotte fans would care to trade or sell your papers when you are finished with them (or just the parts with the Childress art) we are in the market.

## Introducing Popeye

When the Greensboro Daily News introduced "Thimble Theater" on Sunday March 1, 1931 they did it in a big way. The strip was on the way up at the time and they wanted to make the most of their new addition. It may be noted that they were also making the most of the Tarzan Sunday page that would be introduced in a couple of weeks. They were already running a full page ad for that strip, but that is beside the point. To make sure that their readers got into the story right away they ran the previous week of dailies all on one page as an introduction to the strip. This was done all the time in those days when a week of strips would take up a full page but you never see it now even though strips are shrunk to microscopic sizes.

The week they had as a preview was a classic one and included my favorite line from the strip (guess which it is). Olive was the captive cook for a gang of western outlaws and Popeye was crossing the desert looking for her. He was about to keel over from thirst when he stumbled onto a water hole. Unfortunately the pool was one of the many poisoned ones in the badlands - you could tell by the big sign saying "Poison Pool, Don't Drink." It was so poison that "thousands of unthinking cows have died from drinking this clear delicious looking drinking water. Desert wolves feed upon the unfortunate cows and they too perish -. And buzzards fly no more after feasting upon the wolves - and the ants soon keel over after devouring the buzzards - that's how poisonous the pools are." Popeye decides to drink the water anyway, reasoning: "I got to have a drink or I can't keep on looking for Olive. I drunk some arful stuff in me day an' I ain't dead yet - anyway - I ain't go'ner die from thirst." After drinking it he remarks: "I've drunk worse stuff'n this an' paid money for it." Needless to say, Popeye only gets a stumick ache from drinking the poison water.

In addition to the week of dailies the News devoted a full page to syndicate promo material on the strip. This page was about "Popeye - Man of the Hour," and included all sorts of wonderful tidbits. There was an interview with Popeye, an interview with Segar, a gallery shot of all of the "Thimble Theater" characters, "Popeye's Punch Analysed by Dempsey" supposedly by Jack Dempsey, and best of all, text and pictures on Popeye's life history. This life history may or may not have been by Segar, and may not be a part of the accepted history according to Bill Blackwood or other scholars, but it is interesting and funny and early enough to be of historical value in any case. What follows is an edited version of this life history:

"Rumors now current that Popeye was born at the age of forty and is steadily growing younger are totally unfounded. The horseshoe-fisted sailor was only two or three years old at birth, a normal infant in every way. Impressed by early home training as Number 185764, Popeye refrained from getting into serious fights until he was almost four and the keeper tried his patience once too often.

"Unfortunately, Popeye was born an orphan. Today he often says: "Blow me down, I never had no ma or pa. Tha's why I'm a orphink." One of the hard-hitting mariner's chief charms is his ability to reason things out.

"His clothing consisted mainly of old flour sacks, cigar coupons, and old razor blades from a straight razor. Then Whaler Joe picked up the luckless lad on the docks and brought him a new pipe and a fascinating straw skimmer with handsome radio antennae by which marooned dandruff could send SOS calls.

"Popeye at age six began to fulfill his earlier promise. None of the bullies around the docks needed to lose their first teeth with the aid of a doorknob. Popeye relieved them of useless bicuspid with his famous left right to the jaw. He was a great factor for good in discouraging crap-shooting among the rough dock children. He did this by invariably making eighteen straight passes when he got the dice. But times grew hard and Whaler Joe didn't catch many whales that year. Popeye had to sell his dice to the junk man for the lead in them.

"He fared forth a-whaling with a bent pin and a spool of thread. The whales noticed the tot's meager fishing equipment when he really should have come prepared with a net, and thrashed about impudently giving, in a word, the horse-laugh to Popeye. Like a flash the quick-tempered youngster called to the deep-sea upstarts: "Blow me down, you---!" There was immediately quiet like a pall around Popeye's frail bobbing craft. The largest of the whales, deeply offended, climbed into the boat and gave Popeye a jet of water straight on the chin. The boy grinned, feeling his strength for the first time, and delivered a fast one-two to the place where the whale's chin might have been. The big beast staggered and fell limply to the bottom of the boat. Popeye brought home a nice string of whales that night.

"By the time our hero was twelve he startled everyone by proving himself a full-grown man. He had to shave after every meal, and this was for the purpose of removing whiskers, not mulligan. His muscles were so hard that he used them regularly as a grindstone for pocket stilettos and picked up a lot of change this way renting them out to friends.

"It was about this time that he went to sea. He was shanghaied with knockout drops in his soda pop. When he came to he administered knockout drops to the chins of everybody on the boat, including the captain. So the barkentine "Josie Lee" drifted out to sea.

It was on this first voyage that "Popeye" got his nickname, "Popeye." Before that everyone had referred to him simply as "Popeye." Now they called him "Popeye," after he lost a blinker and he has never been known to use any other name.

"Ask any old sailor what happened back in 1910. All right - that's his story. The real events had nothing to do with the woman called "Marseilles Minnie." She is not concerned in this story at all, because, as everyone knows, Olive Oyl is Popeye's girl. He met her much later. But, anyway, Popeye lost one peeper!

"He had just finished shooting a few craps with his trusty crap-gun. The first, second, third, fourth and fifth mates were stretched out on the deck, and Popeye was making pass after pass - at the money in the middle of the floor. Up stepped the bloodthirsty cook of the "Josie Lee," known to his intimates as "The Ape." "Blow me down," said Popeye, "I'll lay you among the swee' peas." Popeye cast about him hastily for a handy sweet pea bed. To his horror, there was not one on the boat. He could not go back on his promise and lay "The Ape" anywhere else - say, for instance, in the handsome sunflower patch amidships - so all he could do was stand still and take his punishment. That was how he lost one optic and had his name changed from "Popeye" to "Popeye."

"One of the famous salt's chief characteristics was his gallantry. He never hit a woman without some justification. Whenever the talk in the glory hole of the "Josie Lee" turned to the fair sex, Popeye would take off his hat and one sock, turn his eyes reverently to the sky and say with real emotion, "Blow me down!" So all the sailors knew popeye was a gentleman. "

We would appreciate hearing from anyone whose Sunday paper picks up the new Conchy Sunday strip. If we have to we might even end up resubscribing to the Charlotte News to get it.

There is some life in PHOENIX yet. The third issue came out a while back and now the 4th and 5th issues are late. The reason it was such a long time before the second mailing is that editor John Berglund had some nerves and tendons severed in his left hand and was forced to take a leave of absence from work. With no money coming in he couldn't put out PHOENIX as he had planned. If things go okay he should be on schedule this fall. For those of you with faith 12 issues are \$9.00 from John Berglund, P O Box 796, Mercer Island, Wash. 98040. The third issue has "Twin Earths" but there is no mention whether or not it will be a regular feature.

Ever improving is BULLDOG from Steve Kristiansen, 6216 105th Pl.S.W., Lynnwood, Wash. 98036. The latest issue is #5 (probably sold out by now) and it features Steve Canyon. There is a good article by Shel Dorf, a checklist of the first eleven episodes and biographies of some of the main characters by Carl Horak, and a couple nice illus. By a strange coincidence Canyon and Caniff have been in the news a lot lately because of the aborted kidnap story. Also in the issue are several fine columns by a number of people. Next issue will feature a discussion of the pros and cons of a comic strip price guide similar to the one for comic books. BULLDOG is well written (in general) and a must for the strip fan. A subscription costs \$1 for four issues.

THE STRIPPER is also a very fine zine on comic strips and is very different from BULLDOG. While BULLDOG is mostly columns about strips in general and prices of same, THE STRIPPER is more concerned with articles on individual strips and cartoonists. The latest issue featured Red Ryder and the next issue (due in August some time) will have a piece by Shel Dorf on Doonesbury. There is also a chance that the Popeye article this issue (or another version of same) will appear in THE STRIPPER since there is not much overlap in our readerships. Send 50¢ to Biljo White (P O Box 440, Columbia, Mo. 65201) for an issue.

CRITTER has expanded and is now 16 tall pages long. It features The Medieval Castle by Foster, Mandrake (1939), Rip Kirby (1947), and Terry and the Pirates from the first Wunder strips (he was better then). It also has Tandra, a better than average fantasy strip by the editor. A subscription costs \$5 for 6 issues and can be ordered from Hanthecraft Publications, P O Box 709, Corinth, Miss. 38834.

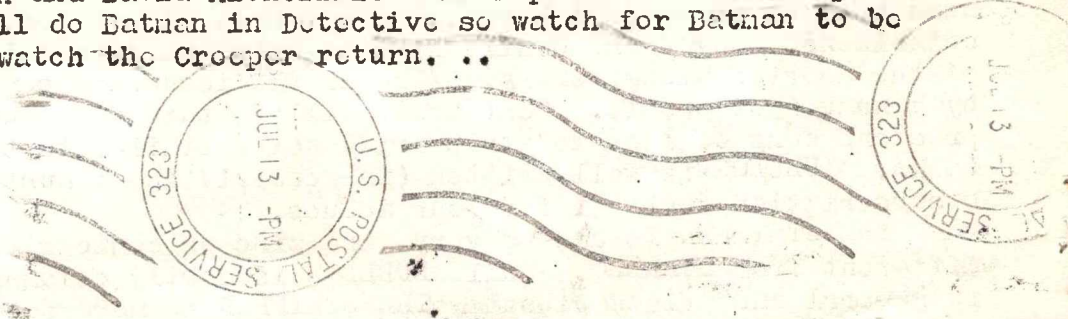
ALL THE NEWS WE CARE TO PRINT TO FILL THE PAGE Dept

Pyramid Books paid a six figure bundle for a group of 18 books from Harlan Ellison including 11 out of print books and 4 new books. The out of print books include RUMBLE, THE DEADLY STREETS, THE JUVIES, PURGATORY, GENTLEMAN JUNKIE, PRINGOD AND OTHER DELUSIONS, FROM PARTNERS IN WONDER. New books include THE OTHER GLASS TERT; NO DOORS, NO WINDOWS; APPROACHING OBLIVION; and RIF. Others include LOVE ISN'T NOTHING BUT SEX MISSPELLED, I HAVE NO MOUTH AND I MUST SCREAM, and THE SOUND OF A SCYTHE (a revised version of THE MAN WITH NINE LIVES). . . Arthur Clarke's RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA has won the Nebula, the Locus Poll, and the Campbell Memorial Award for best novel of the year. It is up for the Hugo for same. . .

This origin of Popeye was wacky enough to be a legit part of the legend but whether it was the work of E. C. Segar or some promo writer for the syndicate we know that Popeye had an eventful earlier life. In the interview part of the page Segar made the following comment: "Popeye's past life has been a sad one. And I claim that pathos is the best background for humor. Tragedy and comedy are so closely related it is only a step from one to the other. The deeper the plot the more chance for humor." This is one of the main reasons that Popeye is one of the most popular comic characters of that or any time.

NEWSWORTHY NEWS

Len Wein will be writing FF and DD; Conway on Marvel Team-Up; and Gerber the Terrible on the Defenders (now monthly). . . Steve Fabian is doing a Savage Tales cover. . . DC is coming out with their own newsletter and is not giving out any more news to fanzines. Watch the comics for word of their fanzine. . . Red Circle is coming out with new versions of the Black Hood and Hangman. . . Denny O'Neil and then Cary Bates will replace Len Wein on JLA and David Michelinie will replace him on Swamp Thing. . . Len Wein will do Batman in Detective so watch for Batman to be accused of murder and watch the Creeper return. . .



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