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COMICS NEWS GATHERED AT A SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION DEPARTMENT: There may be another editorial and/or

management shakeup at DC soon. Most of the DC comics will switch to two stories per issue soon -- a factor here is that <u>Detective Comics</u> is outselling <u>Batman</u>, indicating to DC reader preference for shorter stories. <u>Batman</u> is downright wobbly, in fact, though <u>Detective</u> is doing well.

There will be no more than three more issues of <u>Green Lantern</u> and <u>Justice League of America</u>, barring a dramatic increase in sales. If the decision were reached today to save those books, they'd still skip an issue while getting started up again. <u># Nightmaster</u> definitely is dead; the last issue of <u>Bat Lash</u> is on sale now. At least two <u>Bat Lash</u> endings were rewritten because the Code couldn't permit him to get away with crime. <u># Batman is going</u> back to his 1939 image in <u>Detective</u> very soon, via the talents of Denny. O'Neil and Neal Adams.

Deadman will be guest-appearing in Aquaman for a while. Surprisingly, Aquaman is selling very well in spite of losing his TV show. All the Superman-family books are doing well. An apologist for DC told me (Don) that Flash is selling better than ever; I believe a lot of things, but not that. Anyway, Gil Kane is going to take over Flash artwork. "" Recall our mentioning the fall-through of plans to bring out a Matt Mason comic based on one of those dolls for boys? Vell, it will appear as Glenn Merritt, Spaceman, with art by Murphy Anderson. "" A lot of reprints are coming up from DC; it's floundering time.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD LIVES! Mark Hanerfeld has found some typists (Len Wein, Marvin Volfman) to do the donkeywork and he says an issue will appear late this month, giving the Alley awards and lots of news. Probably be a double issue, in fact. # Mark appeared on a disastrously overcrowded panel with us, Vein, Olfman, Nike Royer, Vaughn Bodé, Jeff Jones, Denny O'Neil, Larry Todd and Harlan Ellison at the 27th World Science Fiction Convention in St. Louis over Labor Day weekend.

A highlight of that convention was an brt show by Bodé, Jones and Todd. A highlight of that art show was a display of collaborations by Bodé and Jones. The first of these to be published will be on <u>Vampirella</u> #4; it is gorgeous and there will be half-a-dozen more at least on the Warren magazines. ## Bodé wants to start a publishing company which will be aimed more at a more intelligent audience and will give lasting, sophisticated material to writers and artists.

<u>Gothic Blimp forks</u>, the highly successful underground comic newspaper, is about to go bankrupt. Apparently, they can't find anyone straight to handle the bookkeeping and office routine. There is a moral there for all of us. Ponder. Can someone give me an address on Kich Hauser? He is interested in knowing how many fans would be willing to lay out about \$5 for a privately-printed 40-page black&white oneshot magazine of Jim Steranko's <u>Talon</u>. If someone will send me his address, I'll publish it and those of us who would pay for such a book can write him and he just may do it. Gil Kane is going to bring out a new magazine, and is buying stories to adapt; he is partners with Neal Adams, apparently. One story already bought is Harlan Ellison's "I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream."

Harlan wrote a story called "Rock God" around a Frank Frazetta cover for Jim Marren. (The story appears, in text form, in the second issue of <u>Coven 13</u>, a fantasy mag on sale now.) The story is to be illustrated by Neal Adams, but Harlan says it won't appear until Jim meets his price -- \$500. He says Jim offered to raise the money by selling autographed copies of Harlan's latest book (<u>The Beast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the World</u>) for \$1 over list price -- if Harlan would aut ograph 500 copies. Wanna rebut, Jim?

May as well mention the Hugo winners, since some of our boys made it. That is the SF fan award for best of the year. The winners: Best.novel -- John Brunner's <u>Stand on Zanzibar</u>; best novella -- Robert Silverberg's "Nightwings"; best novelet -- Poul Anderson's "Sharing of the Flesh"; Best short story -- Harlan Ellison's "The Beast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the Lorld"; best drama -- 2001: A Space Odyssey; best artist -- Jack Gaughan; best magazine -- The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction; best fanzine ---<u>Science Fiction Roview</u>; best fan writer -- Harry Garner Jr; best fan artist -- Vaughn Bodé. Special awards were presented to Warner, to Murray Leinster and to the late Willy Ley. A Huge was given Armstrong, Aldrin & Collins for "the best moon landing ever." Next year's convention will be held in Heidelberg, the year after will be in Boston. Incidentally, Harlan is now tied with Robert Heinlein for most Hugees -- four each.

At the costume ball, grand prize went to Bruce Pelz. The prize for most humorous went to Rick Norwood as Charlio Brown. Norwood lived up to his costume by falling off the stage and tearing the movie screen. The hotel promptly demanded \$250 to repair the screen and Harlan, within 10 minutes, raised over \$400 from conventioneers. "Here's 250-lay it on those mothers," Harlan said. Runner-up most humorous was Steve Hammond as Superman. A girl dressed as Vampirella attended the ball and Mike Royer was photographed with her, signing her shoulder (the photo may appear on a <u>Greepy</u> Fan Club page). Mike was unable to persuade her to let him draw a bit on her left breast, however. The editors of NF may be depicted in an upcoming Graveyard Examiner in <u>Famous Monsters</u>, along with a couple of our fans, Jim Marren and Forrest J Ackerman.

ATTENTION EC FANS: There is another authorized reprint of EC work which I didn't know about when I blasted unauthorized reprints last month. Bob Brosch (14845 Anne St., Allen Park, Mich. 48101) has Bill Gaines' permission to sell Best of <u>Leird Science</u>-Fantasy, which containes artwork by Al Williamson, Frank Frazetta and Angelo Torres. Cost is \$3 by mail and well worth it. *H* Don't buy your EC Checklist from that Cortain Dealer in NYC who is selling a pirated edition at \$10. Send \$5.25 to Joe Vucenic, 2028-A 45th St., Los Alamos, NM 87544. Joe is reprinting o/a Nov. 15, the original Fred Von Bernewitz checklist -- this is authorized.

Jack Gaughan, art editor of Galaxy and If, said he will use comic book artists but not comic book art in his books. The An hour of Harlan Ellison's time was auctioned off for \$125. If Lin Carter's "Thongor" series will be adapted into comic book form by Marvel. Jeff Jones can too draw feet (he just isn't turned on by them) -- see <u>Gueen Cleopatra</u> by Talbot Mundy, coming soon from Avon. Several people thereon have feet. Jeff has a second cover forthcoming from <u>.eb of Horror's original contract</u>, then no more. Jeff is now working for Warren and if you work for Warren, you don't work for <u>Web of Horror</u> -he feels that, after the work and expense he has gone to creating a market, he shouldn't be expected to encourage bandwagonjumpers. If Warren's mags are to drop reprints after the first of the year. Steve Stiles will illustrate another <u>Greecy</u> story soon.

Fringe comics fan Lee Hoffman sold her award-winning western novel <u>The Valdez Horses</u> to an independent movie producor. The man who made <u>Otley</u>. A dealer no dishes to remain nonymous tells us he thinks the market in old comics hit its park in Earch of this year and that prices not are dropping. Our experiences at the con'-- where we say multiple copies of supposedly rare items going unsold at less than catalog prices -- would seem to be rethis out. The ayne Howard, Clevel and comics fan turned provenil have work in the of Herror (story by Nicolas Cuti) and some stories in the Marvel mystery-fontasy mags. Eallantine will publish, in October, Fritz the Cat by K Crumb, containing three new stories. Format will be 9x12", paperbound; cost:\$3.95. The Addis, who does the "Symbolic Sex" cartoon feature for Flavboy, new has a daily syndicated panel called "Lini-Poster." The Ridiculously Expensive and is on sale new of 99.95 from orld Fublishing. Contains a lot of stickers, records and covers, as cell as other material from the may zine dating back to the comic book days. Is'd tell you more about it if someone would send us a review copy. The next paperback had book will be Hopping Mad -- the Alst Lad paperbick.

Ed Aprill bas now published 8 issues of <u>Cartoonist Showerse</u> at \$5 each and featuring Al illiamson's & Archie Goodwin's <u>Secret Agent X9</u>, Russ Manning's <u>Tarzan</u>, and Peter O'Donnell's and Jim Holdatay's <u>Modesty Blaise</u> (the latter being one of the alltime great adventure strips -- and it proved much too strong for American newspaper editors). In addition to these fine strips, Ed plans to start running <u>James Pond</u> again, now that a new artist has taken over the strip. Now, if only he wouldn't crop the panels in Modesty se severely, we could give him a wholehearted recommendation; consider this a 5/8-he rted recommendation. ## David McDaniel is writing the ultimate "Man from UNCLE" book to terminate the series of Acc paperbacks -- The Final Affair, in which everyone is killed; Solo, Kuryakin and waverley. There may be a few more books in the series before that appears, though. # There is a Batman Big Little Book (<u>Eatman in the Cheetah</u> Affair) written by George S. Elrick.

One of the brass at DC recently began cheving out some of the editors for permitting delivery boys to sit around in the outer offices all day. It looks bad, he said, for those kids to be hanging around all the time. The editors more baffled, until Dick Giordano took a look at the delivery boys and announced: "Those aren't delivery boys; those are our writers !" (Understand the "delivery boys" in question were the youthful Denny O'Neil and Steve Skeates.)

Dick Lupoff, onetime Xero editor and co-editor of the forthcoming <u>All in Color for a</u> <u>Dime</u> book, marrowly escaped extinction a couple weeks ago. With his entire family in the car, Dick as doing 60 mph on the freeway when a tire blew. The car spun around, going 60 mph backward for a ways, then sideways, finally stopping on a shoulder very nor a cliff. No injuries, except for the car, but a very close thing. Dick said the tire that blew was new and that he didn't even know tires blew out in this day and age.

Harlan Ellison (already mentioned a time or two this issue) has a book of collabor tions with other sf writers (<u>Partners in onder</u>) coming out next your from Belmont; has accrued half-a-million words in stories for the two-volume <u>Again</u>, <u>Dangerous Visions</u> to be published by Doubleday next year; and has an omnibus collection of what he considers his best work -- stories, poems, essays -- coming forth early in 1970 from image Fress in a limited, numbered edition. Title is The Harlan Ellison Hornbook.

The editors of Newfangles are particularly interested in purchasing the folloting issues of (the real) <u>Captain Marvel</u> -- #31 33 36 40 61 66. Cur special thanks to Joe Sinnott for sending us a copy of the Comicon program booklet.

Joe S rno clues us in on current men's humor magazines: Store (Oct 69) has 6 pages of <u>air Hawk; Fopular Cartoons</u> (Oct 69) has 6 pages of <u>Powerhouse Pepper</u> by Basil olverton; <u>Homp</u> (Oct 69) has 6 pages of <u>like Steel</u>, <u>Desert Hider</u>. (Of course, Joe also says <u>All</u> <u>in Color for a Dime</u> is "by Lich Lupoff and hoy Thomas." Well, Loy does have a chapter in the book, but... For the record, the book is edited by Dick (not Hich) Lupoff and Don Thompson.) Greg Bell says the youngest aid cartoonist not working is Chris Jackson, <u>How orke for the Air code ebster dwartiser</u>, St. Louis, and gets 214 a month for four illustrated Bible verses. He is 9. — Enter is reprinting St dow pulp stories. Your subscription expires with issue number 27

The address for writing to if you'd be willing to spend \$5 or so for <u>Talon</u> book is Kich Hauser, 4519 N. Michmond, Chicago, Ill. 60625. Send no money new, just indicate interest in the project. Thile in the process of giving addresses, Ed Aprill's is 5272 Liberty Rd., Ann arbor, Lich. 48103. Send him \$5 each for <u>Cartoonist Showcase</u> #2-8, which are in print. The <u>Modesty Blaise</u> story in 7-9 is one of her best.

ORCHID FROM A READER: "It seems that moving to Chio hasnt changed you essentially New York manner. Looking back over items that i that would be good examples i find they really arnt so good but i always have been sensitive to tones of writing particularly in relation to the character of the writer and his emotions and frequently i dislike the insensitive tone used in some items. It comes across bordering on the mean ad arrogant ad is generally upleasant. Thile im not asking for the homey, simplistic tone of Bijo hites Eatmania, i think a more loving attitude to the scent ad its creators culd be exercised in writing about them."

Larry Ritchell suggests comparing the cover of Not Brand Lohn 13 with the ad for it in Narvel Tales /20 -- specifically the "Be kind to a comic book fan" stamp. It's worth the trouble to dig them out for a look, particularly if you dig Code censorship.

Cleveland now has its own comics fan club, the Graphic Arts Society of Northeastern Ohio. For information, contact Tony Isabella, 11203 Peony, Cleveland 44111. Cur Fury poll ("Does anyone c re whether Nick Fury is dea'd or not !") drew one response -a mildly curious who would prefer that he stay dead. Strips have ended with the death of the hero before -- The Comet in comic books and Komulus of Rome in comic strips. # Le have a rumor that John Severin has left Marvel and gone over to DC. Le reported that he has done some work for Joe . ubert's war books a while back, but word we got then was that he didn't want to get tied down to any one comics company. ## Some issue of Phantom Stranger (5 or 6) will be done by Neal Adams. Tom Hegeman tells us Jim Steranko was offered the Batman newspaper strip and refused it. . You can get three free comic books with every 11 worth of school supplies at Thompson Drug in mcLaughlin, S.D., reports Jon Carter. Hart Amos, who had drawn the Australian comic strip Devil Doone for 20 years, has retired, Gary Mason says. Besides Devil, (he did some 280 stories for Lan Junior) nd artwork for the ...G. urray magazines, he has done many covers. He probably will continue to do covers. Janet Van Dyne is a ASP -- Lick Brown. If you still haven't ordered Captain George's Comic orld (see NF 25 for sub info), be advised that 15 is a portfolio of sexy drawings by Frank Frazetta. The first issue of Frazetta is out, finally, at 62 the copy, but we don't seem to have an address. You can order it from Ed Aprill, though, whose address oppears above. The Angel of X-Len is to get a new costume designed by Norl Adams as a result of his old costume being splattered from a fall from a cliff in which he is presumed dead for 5 pages, sez Doug Foley. Foley says also that hoy Thomas is considering writing a new syndic ted strip if time is available. Cur report on the Zap fire was exaggerated. The fire destroyed some original art and some pages (not plates) to some new Snitch-type comics. The Rip-Off Press printed 10,000 copies of R. Crumb's Big ass Comies before someone discovered the pages were out of order. So it goes on the underground comix scene, according to art Scott. Order Squa Tront (a fine LC fonzine) from Jerry Weist, Kalmar Hall, Lindsborg, Kanses 67456 at 75¢ a copy. Thy pay A Certain New York Dealor \$8 a copy? Dan Floming now has the same address as Jerry Leist.* # You can get <u>Cavalende</u> of <u>Old-Time Comics</u> for \$2 from Good Cld D.ys, Pox 412, D nvers, Mass. 01923 -- or from that Certain NY Dealer for \$10. The choice is yours. You might want to sub to Good Old Days mag for \$4 a year -- it's a nostalgia mag which usually includes a few pages of old Sunday comics in each issue. {*Except DF is in Carlton Hall ... }

There is a 50¢ mag zine (Timesize) of Harry Shorten's There Cughta Be a Law. 7 In <u>F mily Veckly</u> (19 July) someone asked Fickey Spillane where he gets his ideas "I depend on my on imagination. When I write a book, I plan the last scene first. Then I start at the beginning and work bick to the end. This is the format I used in writing comic books, and it has always worked well for me." "The Does Alter E. o live?