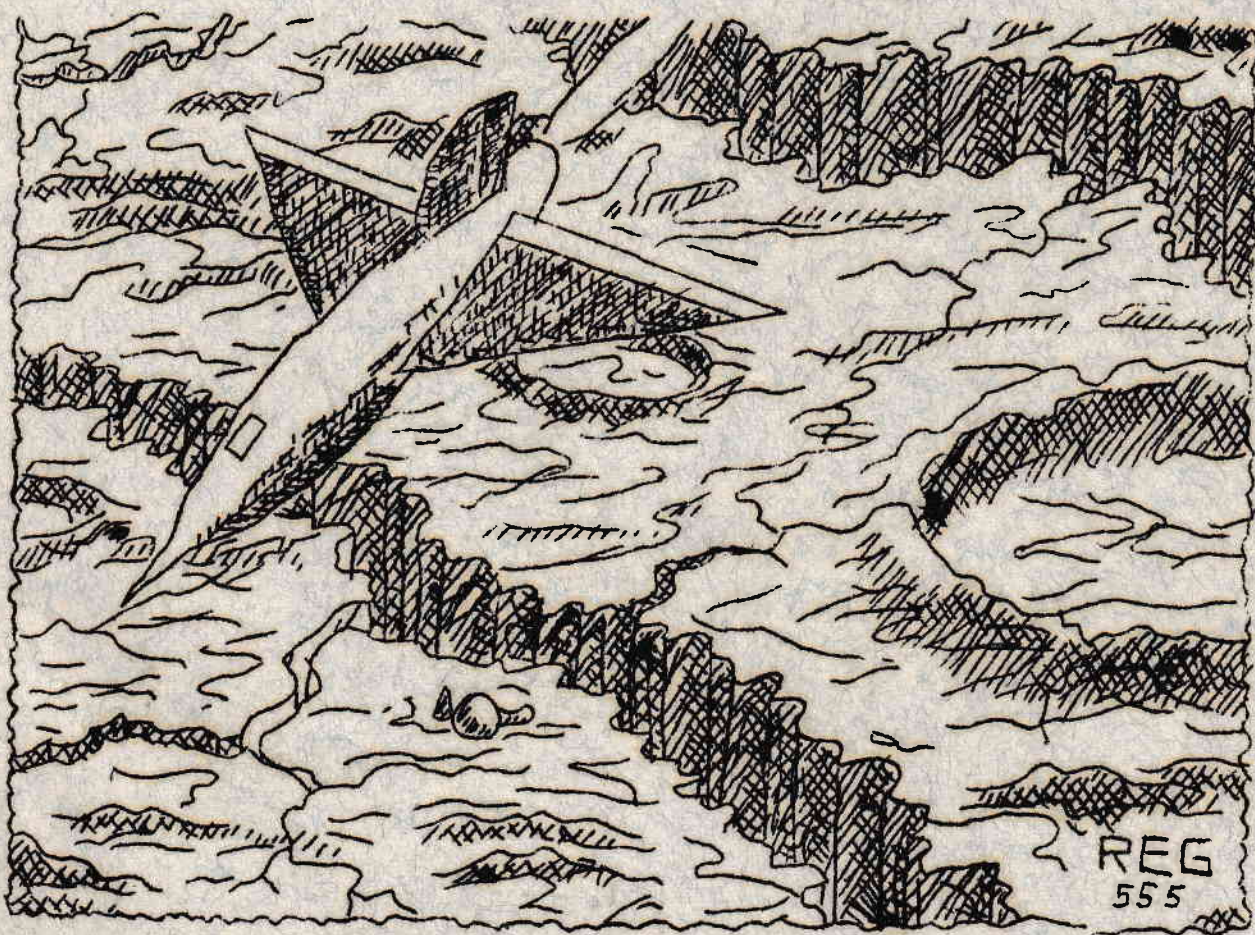


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W. H. & A.



REG  
TRADE



Z A J E Z A C U L O #3

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Art credits: Cover, REG

Excelsior Press #7  
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SFFA 13

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EDITORIAL

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And so it is that another skimpy issue of ZZ hits the SFFA. I hope that all of you will refrain from hitting back. I understand that this is SFFA's anniversary mailing. I feel that I have done my part for it; In addition to this zine, if you peer attentively you should find copies of EXCALIBUR's #7 and 8. They're going through this mailing only, because Arnie and I thought some of you might like to subscribe or contribute, and we thought it would beef up the mailing to a meaty number of pages. Speaking of which, that reminds me, I have a Statement to make.

IN DEFENSE OF A FELLOW SFFAer

Most of you stomped on Arnie Katz rather hard last mailing. As one who lived three houses away from him for 12 years and entered fandom with him, I feel I am qualified to talk about him.

Arnie frequently becomes carried away with something and tries to be witty not thinking that he will hurt anybody. I'm sure he didn't mean to insult SFFA, although his first fanzine in the apa did do just that. I'm sure that if you all refrain from clubbing him for a while, you may discover he isn't really such a bad guy and can make valuable contributions in the apa. As a show of good faith, I understand he has two zines in this mailing in addition to the genzines we are running. Arnie has a style of writing in which he from time to time "puts people down" when he wants to state an opinion on something. He means it only in good clean fun, and in the spirit of Swedishness. I hope you'll give him a second chance before judging him too harshly.

THANK AND APOLOGIES

This issue of ZZ is going to have bad showthrough. You know it from looking at it, and I know it because I've tested the paper. I'm sorry, but this is all I have on hand and I won't be able to get more before the mailing is due out. I think the issue will still be readable however I feel that it is best not to miss a mailing. Maybe I'll print on one side of the page if I have enough paper.

Thanx to Larry Montgomery for sending a cover for ZZ. I already had this REG run off, so I'll use his next issue.

I'm sorry that I couldn't make it to the Deep Southcon...My parents were in NY for a vacation during the time, and I tagged along. Maybe next year. Hope one of you has a full report in his fmz.

S'all for now, see you in December.



I'm in the wrong fandom: Buying science fiction books and magazines no longer takes up the major portion of my weekly income. A new, and some say sinister, interest has captured my attention and has laid claim to my dimes and quarters: Pinball machines.

T  
JOHN KUSSKE

E  
There are those who say that the Romans invented pinball machines by using small stones on an inclined plane which had holes hollowed out in it. Others contend that the mechanical contrivances are modifications of an old French game. But pinball as we know it originated during the depression. Penny arcades featured glass-covered boxes studded with brass pins guarding scoring holes. A penny would allow a player ten marbles.

It took the Chicago World's Fair of 1933 to mature the game, though. The marbles were replaced by steel balls (so that magnets could affect them, no doubt), and the cost went from 1¢ to a nickel. Flippers, holes, electrically wired obstacles, and bumpers made up the surface. Flashing lights and bells were added to tell a player when he was on the road to victory.

Racketeers, though, began dealing in the distribution of pinball machines, and although the only payoff for a high score was free games, they arranged for the customer to receive cash from the management if he wished instead. By feeding the machine more nickels, one could increase the odds, and if he won it was possible to collect over twenty dollars. Payoffs, of course, were kept at a minimum.

When they began installing their de facto slot machines near schools, though, the gangsters made a fatal mistake. Adults will allow almost anything to corrupt them, but when their children are affected the corruption is stamped out. Laws were passed in city after city outlawing pinball, and the hoods' control gradually lessened. Most people today, though, frown on the game and technically it is against the law for minors to play it in Minnesota.

The three major producers of pinball machines today are the D. Gottlieb and Company, Williams Manufacturing Company, and The Bally Company.

I play the machines for escape. A few years ago if I wanted to get away from it all I could buy Heinlein's latest novel or the new AMAZING off the newsstand. Now, however, I'm bored by Heinlein, and AMAZING strikes me as the purest crud. While I'm a poor pool-player and a lousy lover, I can do fairly well on the pinball machine.

We have one place in Alexandria that is the major Mecca of pinball edifices. It contains three (count them) machines of varying difficulty. If one has little money he can try WAGON TRAIN, if one has much money he can try KEWPE DOLL, and if one is drunk he can stagger up to RACK A BALL.

All three hold much of my money.

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L \* dol drum--(Locke) All right Dave, I tried transposition, substitution  
M moving up a row on the typewriter and constructing a frequency table.  
\* Just what was that mc on ZZ supposed to mean? Or did you merely strike  
G keys at random knowing that I would go crazy trying to decipher it?  
\* M I'm in SFPA for a number of reasons. Firstly, I have this thing about  
I apas, like I have to join as many as I can. Of course if I felt that  
\* C the material in an apa was not interesting to me I'd probably quit soon  
O after, but so far this hasn't happened. The second reason I'm in SFPA  
\* S is the one you touched upon. I'm a southern fan now, and here is a chance  
N to meet kindred souls. SFPA isn't as big as SAP S or N'APA but this is  
\* balanced by the air of intimacy which pervades it.  
S I never had any trouble with Red and Black masters when I was using a  
O ditto. Agree with you about the green ones tho. The reports on smoking  
\* F are a trifle overemphasized but you are deliberately making an effort  
F to disbelieve them from what I surmise are personal reasons (ie You like to  
\* P smoke) I suppose you could smoke all your life with less than 1 chance in  
T A a thousand that you contract cancer, but I personally don't want to risk  
\* even that. Of course this is because never became addicted to the habit.  
H If the findings showed that inhaling mimeo ink and or the vapors of old  
\* stencils caused cancer I'd be the first to say "So what"

\* 1  
E WORKFARM--(Gibson) Speaking of Emsh covers, I think it might trigger an  
\* 2 interesting discussion if we were to mention the prozine covers which  
we nominate for the all-time best. I'm sure one vote would go to the  
D Bok cover on the Nov. 1963 F&SF illustrating A ROSE FOR ECCLESIASTES.  
\* I'm very fond of that big illo of The Stolen Dormouse by DeCamp which I  
A think Emsh did.

\*  
M WARLOCK--(Montgomery) Now hold on a minute Larry. Granted that Arnie  
\* said some not nice things about SFPA, but by stomping on him you are  
N exhibiting the same infantile quality which you condemn. You pub a good  
\* zine and write interesting mc's, but as soon as you come to something  
E by someone you don't like...Bingo, you are transformed into a raging beast.  
\* Your rating system seems to be based on how many complimentary things the  
D author said about you in the last mailing.

\* I enjoyed reading "What ever happened to Antarctica fandom," but didn't  
care for "Cock Robin" Nice art and layout. At least we agree on THE  
MOON MAID as one of Burroughs's best books, tho I like the sequel better.  
Or are you referring to the original Moon Maid which included the MOON MEN.  
BEYOND THRITY is another ERB book which I liked, but I don't care overly much  
for TARZAN and The Venus series.

THE INVADER--(Staton, the new Fuhrer) I think that it must be only Southern  
English teachers who are allergic to fans. (Down Montgomery, I'm not knocking  
the South) As a matter of fact, there's a good chance neither Arnie nor I  
would be in fandom were it not for an English teacher I had in Commack. Both  
of us wanted to pub a fanzine back in 1962 but neither of us knew how we were  
going to produce it. Then this Teacher comes along and says she'll cover for  
me if I use school ditto masters, paper and machine to run it off. Later she  
also helped me obtain stencils and paper for mimeo'd issues of Excalibur. All  
against school rules of course. And I'm sure Arnie can tell you of the Benign  
Teachers in Great Neck where we both used to go to school many eons ago. The  
teacher I was talking about really ruined me good tho.\* Despite a 97 attained on  
\* I mean the C harlotte one



the Final Exam she gave me a D for the semester. At least I have my A from the first semester in Commack to average it out with, but it looks mighty ugly sitting there, let me tell you.

We bombed Hiroshima after we received word that the Japanese were going to surrender according to some sources I've read. That's not war, Joe, that's murder. And even if this is untrue there was certainly no call for the attack on Nagasaki. But no, we had to test our supercool new toy because no one really believed it would work.

SPORADIC--(Plott) I know my zines haven't had the greatest repro in historyn but gee, Bill, Pages upside down, three page 3's, same deal in Locke's zine. Looks to me like your mimeo needs a new pad. I hope you don't take my references last ish about clods who smoke personally. Fans don't smoke because they're clods. They smoke because they're crazy anyway. I'm afraid this zine is going to be a trifle short too, but six pages every mailing is the same as 12 pages every other mailing. (I don't know what that has to do with anything but it sounds good.) The typeface on page 15 looks more or less Identical to mine. This is a 1938 Smith-Corona, what's yours?

In answer to Wolfenbarger's article there are a few Fanzine foundations in operation. To begin with there is the one which Alan J. Lewis is now running which used to be sponsored by Howard DeVore. UCLA also has a library fanzine collection which is quite large, and of course Bruce Pelz is a fanzine library all by himself.

ISCARIOT--(Andrews/Ambrose) I'm not so sure symbolic fiction should be kept short. Remember Ward Moore's TRANSIENT? You can't hardly get more symbolic than that, and it was damned good reading.

Of course there has to be some form of censorship. I merely object to the Government being the censor. OK, it can conceal military secrets, and I even sympathize a little with the attempts to hide the real significance of any bit of news by the papers, but as to movies and/or books I believe that any responsible adult of legal age should be his own censor and further that any one under that age should have nonebut his parents controlling his reading matter. In the argument in question, the teacher said she thought the government ought to grant authority to Catholic groups such as NODL to wipe out LADY CHATTERLY'S LOVER, PLAYBOY and just about everything but Mickey Mouse comics. I needn't tell you what I thought she could do with her suggestion.

You may excuse ERB's Tarzan racism but what about that which runs rampant in the Mars series. Mind you, I don't say ERB WAS a racist. I just say that his characterizations seem to indicate strong unconscious feelings in that direction.

When you come right down to it, the only way to prove anything is to outwit whoever your trying to prove it to and close the subject before he can find the catch in your postulates. A debate team is the perfect example of this. Of course the Debate team doesn't really try to be logical tho, so I guess it isn't such a perfect example. As a member of a few debate teams I've discovered that there are two kinds of arguing. The first is that which wins HS Debates. This line of thought is based on looking over the judge, sizing up what he wants to hear and building your case around it. Straw men are the prime tool for fashioning a victory although Hasty Generalization will work as well. Once in a great while your opponent will realize what you are doing instead of just attacking your statistics. This is one of the risks.

The other kind of argument is the kind in which you aren't trying to win anything but merely want to express your point of view and see if that of others is true by objectively judging what they say. Even in this form, the trick is to get an agreement on a postulate and force home your logical conclusion. Then later when they discover how to modify your postulate to twist the argument back, it starts all over with the most clever modifier being the victor.







MAULING COMMENTS -- (Harkness) I thought I was through with the mc's for this mailing, but then this little gadfly arrived.

Jim, just hold on. I won't say anything about your criticisms of Arnie. I've touched on that matter elsewhere in the issue. But I do have some things to say to you in regard to N'APA. You try to be rational in most of your comments, so I have trouble understanding the vehemence which this subject brings out in you. Even if you have seen 34 N'APAZines (something which seems to me to be rather unlikely) there is nothing which would indicate that you have a representative cross section. I know for a fact that you don't have material by every member. N'APA has changed half its membership in the past few mailings and its highly unlikely that twenty of them sent you their zines in the last couple of months. N'APA is presently composed of some of the biggest names in fandom and most competent fannish writers. Of course, you're right in your assumption that some not so great prose also is circulated in the mailings, but there are at least as many well written and enjoyable zines as in SFFA, in fact on the basis of quantity there are more enjoyable zines. If you don't believe me then I'm sure Dave Hulan can testify that you are off base in your assumptions. I realize that having a running insult contest with one member may not have added much to your evaluation of the group, but are you sure you aren't transferring your personal dislike of Katz to 39 other people without basis? I enjoy SFFA myself and have no intention of lapsing my membership in the near future, but I object to unqualified name calling on your part. Even if provoked it doesn't make any more sense than that which you are retaliating against, and it is just as immature and rude.

Now on the subject of science fiction, I wonder whether your current vehement dislike of it is as much a passing phase as was your ardent love for it. I know what you are reacting against. It is the drugging of the mind and exclusion of all other types of reading matter which you object to, but raging against the whole field of stfdom doesn't accomplish anything. I'd like to see you edit a science fiction magazine before you blandly call the editors incompetent. You had better consider the position from which you speak. OK, you write a book review column in a newspaper for which you get paid. This isn't a license which authorizes you to indiscriminately condemn any form of literature. An opinion is an opinion, it should be stated as such. I strongly suggest you read Anthony Boucher's speech at the Westcon in regard to the object of book reviewing. You, sir, are hardly in a position to loftily determine the intrinsic merits of any piece of literature. You are merely qualified to give a subjective judgement. Far more learned and literary personages than you have stated their judgements that the genre of science fiction is worthy of reading and/or analysis. If you feel that YOU don't find stf worthy of YOUR consideration, this is one thing, but let's watch those broad sweeping generalizations, huh?

There, I'm done rhetoricizing (that's an interesting verb) I hope you don't take offense, Jim, as I don't mean to offer any. You said some pretty strong things and I believe that they shouldn't be allowed to stand unchallenged.

You're right as regards high school. The only thing to do is to Play It Cool. As for the question of the harder schools, based on half a year in Charlotte I'd say that the Northern schools have curriculums that are more advanced and of greater scope, but that students in the South are more mature and responsible so that they probably get more out of the slightly simplified curriculum than do the Northern students on an average out of their studies. Of course, if one wants to be a Physicist or Mathematician and have had high school in Dixie, one may be in for some additional problems in college.

Your statement that Burroughs was a better writer than any who are presently in the stf field (which includes Sturgeon and Cordwainer Smith, I take it) is also worthy of an argument, but I'm tired and it's hot and there's an air conditioner in the next room. Let's just say I sort of disagree and call it a completed stencil. Eh wot?