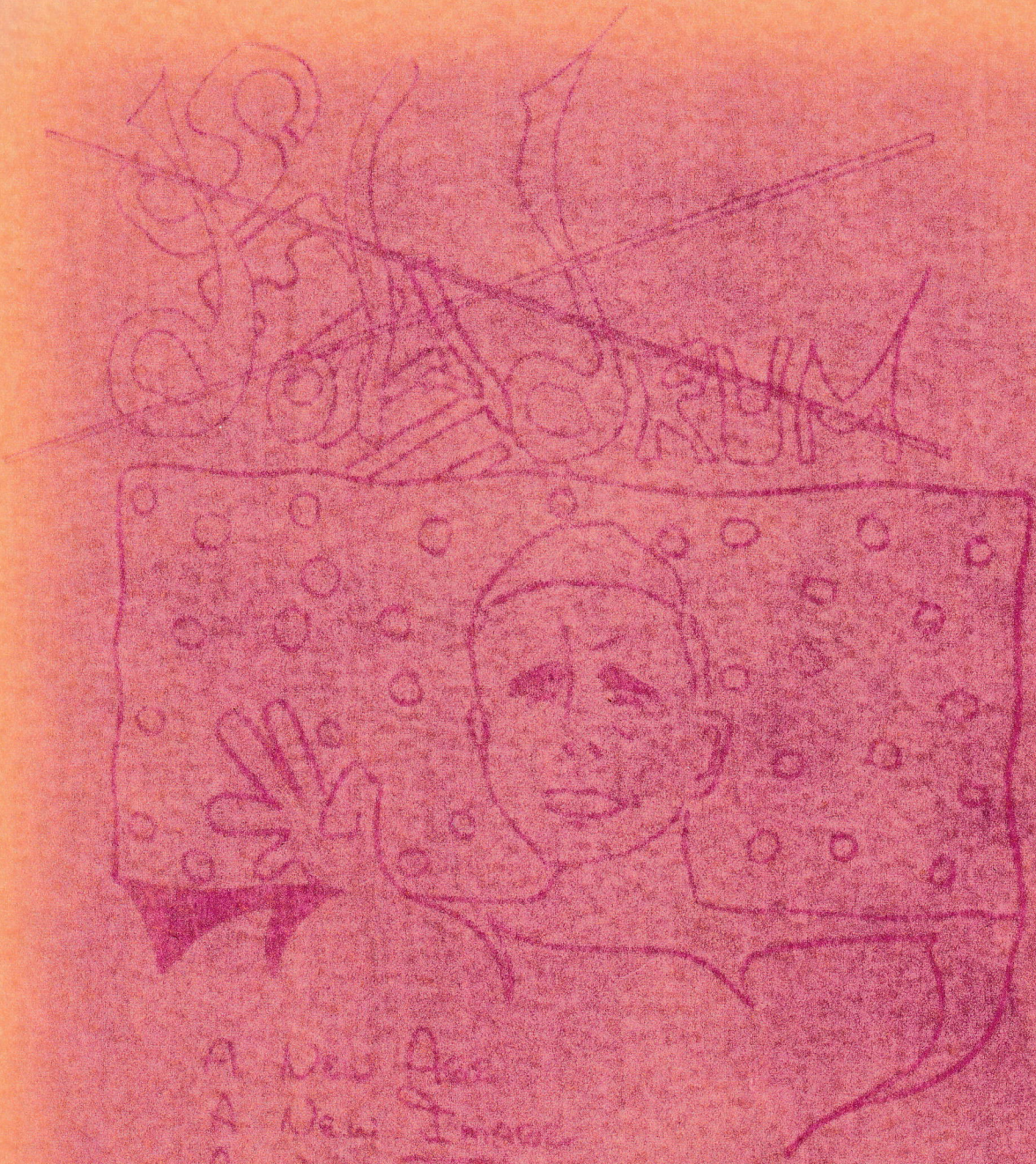


U E I I O W

F A C K E T

S E U E N

S F P A 17



A New Age
A New Image
A New Title

The New Look!

Ever Onwards & Upwards....

SFP
DOFEDRUM
YELLOW
JACKET

Yellowjacket #7 from Dave Locke, 605 Craig St., Schenectady,
N.Y. 12307

Yellowjacket's numbering is the continuation of all single-edited
Locke SFPazines. This zine is born of the Time Honored custom
of changing your title when you change your policy. Coral Edition
number three.

I've discovered that an operation owned/operated/financed by the
AEC/General Electric/US Government can be just as fallible as a
tinkertoy operation like the Army. I'm referring to the Knolls
Atomic Power Laboratory, at which I work and in which I possess a
Q clearance. I observe and file away all manners of blunders and
idiocies which run rampant at this place; some of which I shouldn't
mention, and others which I couldn't make clear to you unless you'd
worked there for a few months. But there are a couple of things -

1 Everyone at KAPL wears a radiation badge with
his photo on it. Badges are deposited in numbered slots in racks
after you pass through the guards on your way out at the end of the
day. When you come in in the morning you hold your badge shoulder
high and a guard has to identify you with the photo on your badge
before he can let you in.

My boss accidentally grabbed a woman's badge on morning, and was
allowed into the building.

2 In a radiation area, protective footwear is
required. You pick up and deposit this footwear in a change room.
In KAPL, there is a non-radiation hallway that runs between two
radiation areas, but there is only one change-room servicing both
these areas. Footwear which definitely bears radiation - and for
all the world might possibly on occasion be soaking with it - is
worn by a considerable number of people who have to go from one area
to the other and thus trample radiation across the non-radiation
hallway.

3 All envelopes leaving KAPL must be inspected by the guards. Lunch-boxes, however, are ignored. KAPL loses a substantial amount of money from lost equipment of a small size. Equipment of no larger a size, let's say, than would fit in a lunchbox. In the course of a five-day week I wonder how many top-secret letters, microfilms, etc., could be carried out as easily as a lunch can be carried in?

4 A security clearance is required before you can be employed at KAPL. I was born in Gloversville, N.Y. and lived there nine years, and I know nothing of what investigation was done there, but I do know that I lived in Indian Lake, N.Y. from the age of nine until November 1964 and that the agent who investigated me for my L clearance (the first clearance you receive at KAPL; the one necessary for you to be employed there at all) did not arrive in Indian Lake until the day before I reported to work at KAPL. Why was I allowed to work there before my clearance was in? I had to handle Confidential mail when I first started my job, so it would seem that at least a full L clearance would be adviseable.

Negligence and gross carelessness would seem to be a major requisite in operating an organization like this. Things are accomplished at KAPL, but at a place where security is supposed to be a full time business I wouldn't say it's run in a very tight fashion.

We've all read science fiction stories that depict the far-flung future where interstellar travel is commonplace, where robots walk and talk and help or fight humanity, where extraterrestrials are at war with us or where we manage to get along together peacefully in one degree or another, and where the fantastic is placed on paper in such a manner as to appear a mundane setting for the even more fantastic plots of the stories themselves.

In some of these stories people find a sense of wonder. They find it in the author's portrayal of a vast universe or of a strange and wild future with incredible science and customs. It's all in the handling of the story and in the mind of the reader. It's in the plot, the description, the background, the foreground, the reader's mind and in how he likes his thrills.

For myself at least, the story of the far future can be interesting generally only because of its adventure content. I can find only limited association with a future that is extremely far removed from my own, or with a day-after-tomorrow story that is very unlikely to be close to truth because it deviates from the lines that humanity is developing on and the ways that it is developing toward.

It is only the fiction that combines present reality, distinct possibility, and twists them into a short side-path of 2% improbability, that I can find my sense of wonder in. In other words, everything has to be terribly probable and absolutely possible (in a story) for a considerable length before the fictional element is introduced, and this story has to be a story of the near future.

Let me tell you what I find exciting about the future. As I am writing this the Mars rocket is still sending back photographs of

Mars' surface. This to me is sense of wonder, because it is happening now, it involves a great unknown, and because I am witness to it and it is Reality. In the near future Man will set foot on Mars, and the possibilities of what he will find there - while none of them probably completely true - excite me because Mars is an unknown and the truth about it will be revealed in my own lifetime. I find 'association' in this because it is the near future and in a small way I can participate.

In the field of science fiction, stories of the far future can only ever be but one thing - fiction. There has to be a better than even chance that there will be some truth in my fiction before I can really find empathy with it. My type of fiction has to be of the near future, mostly logical extension of present fact, and only small portions of fiction before it can excite any of my sense of wonder. All other types of science fiction I can consider as only fantasy, with perhaps but an idea or two that might have a chance of seeing reality.

Since this zine was started I've been promoted to librarian at the West Milton Naval Training site. It entails a much longer drive to and from work, but the pay is better and so is the job - which are two all-important considerations as far as I'm concerned. I'm working the graveyard shift, but I'm the boss and there are men working under me - a hard-to-believe situation considering what little seniority I have with KAPL. Frankly, I like the hours. I'm not enthusiastic about the responsibility for all those classified books and materials and security checks, but it has to be accepted if I'm to accept the benefits of Being In Charge.

I may from time to time clue you in on the workings, malfunctionings, or whatever, that I find interesting as I become more accustomed to the job. Nothing terribly exciting has happened yet, nor nothing stupid or ignorant - except that I had to report a sailor who smuggled a transistor radio onto the site (believe it or not they can scam some of the electronic equipment used with the prototype atomic sub and destroyer that we have on the site; it's happened before, which is why there's a ban on radios). I've been thoroughly indoctrinated in security dictates, and there's not an awful lot about this job that I can divulge that would be very interesting to anyone (I'm not supposed to talk about the more interesting things that go on there, for obvious reasons), but things will come up and you'll read about them here if they're worth reporting.

It was quite an experience for me to take a tour through the "ball" which is in the WM site. This black ball, absolutely round except, naturally, at the base, is made of steel two inches in thickness. It houses a prototype atomic destroyer and is over 13 stories high. Relatively few people have been inside the ball to see what it houses, and to take a tour through it was like walking through the pages of a science fiction story.

The submarine which is on the site is also 'under wraps', but the day shift boss is going to come in early one day soon and take me through it. It's an interesting place.

Mailing comments ---- -----

UTGARD/Hulan It'll never cease to amaze me how you can keep retreating in our discussion on religion and yet never, seemingly, loose any ground. The argument which you put forth now is a greatly revised version of the one you held three years ago. If you don't believe me go back and compare your assertions of 1962 with the ones you give now. This has all taken place in a very slow fashion; you slip back just a little in your position each time you state it - there's something different about it every time.

Why don't you admit that the burden of proof lies with the affirmative? You can't argue religion in spiritualistic terms (not that you ever have)-if your aim is to prove the existence of a God, but if the existence of a God can be proven logically or factually then why haven't you done so and ended the argument?

If you're willing to follow debate rules and prove your position (the existence of a God) since you have the affirmative, I would then be happy to take on the "equal burden" of proving that there isn't a God. However, I'll never have to go to all that trouble, because I'm sure you can't prove that there is. I don't see your ~~xxxxxxx~~ point of view that I should have to prove my negative position on this topic, but I'm willing to tackle it if you're willing to take the lead. After all, if both sides have the burden of proof, then let's stick to the rules somewhat and at least let the affirmative go first. After you, Dave.

The Fan Of Bronze was a bit out-of-date by the time it came out. I guess Locke isn't going to quit the SFFA after all. However, Arnie Katz can take my place as apa humorist if he so desires. Yellowjacket, as I promised a few mailings ago, will be a strict departure from the type of fanzine a fan would expect me to publish. Dave will be his usual self when he gets away from Yellowjacket, but his writing needs a firm touch of discipline and fandom is as good a place as any to practice his writing. So Yellowjacket will be a vehicle to exhibit a few informal pieces of serious writing, and if you don't like them as well as you do my non-serious material you may at least find them half-way interesting as a change-of-pace.

THE AMAZING SFFA-FEN was a good treat to find in this mailing. I can imagine the effort that went into it - and it was a lot of fun to read.

THE SOUTHERNER It seems to me that the 'rules' of SFFA are changing with every mailing. Maybe it's a lot of fun to revise them every three months, but I wish they would be left simple and unchanged for a reasonable length of time before they're played with again. As it is, what may appear plain to you you haven't succeeded in putting across in print. For such a small, uncomplicated setup as SFFA I think you're letting this 'rules' business get out of hand. "Anyone who doesn't read all of the Southerner is extremely stupid" isn't exactly the way I would phrase it. Anyone who reads all of the Southerner, if future issues are going to be of the same vein as this one, is soon going to be

bored/disgusted to the point of tears.

These twelve 'rulings' that you've listed are just too much. Let's not go from worse to goddamn worse with this business.

INVADER/Staton The Rick Brant series was my favorite, too. I've forgotten the name of the author, but I believe that besides being a better writer he was a man who put a little more effort into his stories. I thought they were great a dozen or so years ago, but when I was 14 I couldn't manage to get too interested in re-reading one - in fact, I didn't finish the book.

It's hard to say just exactly what people would consider pornography. Would pornography be statues in the parks, undressed animals, women modelling underwear in a Sears catalogue? To define pornography is to chew off more than you can tackle, because there are about as many definitions as there are people. I suppose a censorship board could be set up to deal with that pornography which most everyone would consider objectional material to be in the hands of children, but to do so might result in a lot of problems. I don't think anyone has a reasonable answer as to how to put censorship into useful practice, but this of course doesn't prevent people from dwelling on the subject of censorship in general. Nobody gives any deep thought on the mechanics of setting up such an operation, but they all chit-chat about it.

REVENGE/Hall I like your writing, but what you had to say didn't stir up any comments here. I'd like to say something more than that I enjoyed your zine, but I'm afraid that'll have to do this time around. I hope you make the 17th mailing; you're a good writer.

SENTINEL/LOCKENess Monster Goodby the Old Me.

WARLOCK/Montgomery A hoax can be amusing, but to unveil it too soon you put it more in the category of a joke rather than of a hoax. A good hoax is one that runs for a good length of time; you nip it too soon and you lose a lot of reaction.

THE SOUTHERNER/postmailed ish My mailing was opened, too, and 57 cents was due on it. Fanzines cannot legally go under the educational materials rate, and unless everyone sends in their zines unstapled and you, the OE, staple them into one large zine then 4th class will be the cheapest you can send them. I hope you realize that with 4th class mail postage is not determined by weight alone. Anything over a pound going 4th class (actually, anything under a pound is third class) goes by weight and zone (destination - the farther you send it, the more it costs).

I'm sorry Dian saw fit to publish this Portfolio. I must admit that I don't Get it; I don't understand why it was conceived. D. Mitchell's quote doesn't seem like sufficient provocation to go to all the trouble of putting this zine out, and its contents don't strike me as funny. They aren't even cute. I wouldn't call them pornography, but I wouldn't call them humor or art or vehicles to display some sort of message. I don't know quite what to call them, but the

zine seems to have created extra work and postage for no worthwhile reason.

DY/Katz . I share your taste for a good apazine over a genzine.

People can put whatever they want into an apa, but simply by definition I think a genzine should stick to gen-fandom and not infiltrate the apas. Generally, the purpose of an apa is to bull-session and to natter. An article or two, or an amusing piece of fiction have some worth in an apa - the former to generate discussion and the latter purely for change-of-pace - but a full-blooded genzine is out of place. If Dave Hulan didn't put genzines through SFFA I'd consider asking him to make a ruling of some sort against genzines. I know he wants us all to read his genzines, and for that reason I don't feel that he has the attitude of a true genzine pubber. Generally, a genzine isn't sent to a person unless that person responds in a fashion that the editor finds satisfactory. Most faneds do not consider MCs satisfactory in this respect, and for that reason I don't consider Dave a true hard-bitten faned. Ask the Coulsons, for instance, if they would consider putting their genzine through an apa - even if 90% of its members were friends of theirs. But this is neither here nor there; it must remain undisputed that fannish apas were not created for the purpose of distributing genzines. A genzine is an amateur magazine with a circulation that changes according to reader-response; an apazine is not an amateur magazine, it does not try to follow the format or layout of a magazine. An apazine is a personalized publication with a fixed and limited circulation. A genzine, to me, is out of place in an apa, just as an apazine would be out of place if it were to have a large circulation outside of its apa.

KABUMPO/Pelz Everybody belongs to a lot of apas but me. I belong to one. I don't even have the promise of another, because I gave up FAPA wl-ship. At one time I participated in 3 apas, but that was all three or four years ago. For some reason I've grown lazy and don't particularly care to be too fannishly active anymore. I've lost a lot of interest in fannish egoboo, and I don't get the satisfaction out of writing that I used to - two good reasons why I've got one foot out of the field. In the not too distant future I may just disappear; I've been in fandom over four years, which is one year longer than average - but until all interest fades away I'll be active in some manner. For now that manner will be this group.

ISCARIOT/Andrews I hope you decide to include MCs in future issues - now that you're back in business again we should continue our policy of always having something to argue about and of being at odds over every little thing upon which we disagree. It's always nice to have at least one lively discussion going in an apa, and in the past you and I have proved capable of fulfilling the bill. I've handicapped myself by putting the taboo on all shafts of Locke-humor in YJ, but I believe a strictly serious discussion between us can be as interesting as one in which we stray from the main point of dissention and ridicule each other. Of course, you don't have to be strictly serious - I don't care how you wield your pen.

As you may realize, a good serious discussion is a fine way to practice serious writing - which is what I want to do in YJ.

MELIKAPHKHAZ/Atkins Fans are becoming hard-up for titles.

I don't understand what kind of rocks a person gets from boxscores and batting averages, or from listing the fanzines they have published. I can get a page of credit by listing the half-hundred zines I've done, or by working out a new twist on boxscore, but for some reason I find it hard to believe that people would be interested.

Enjoyed the zine, Lon, but it was short on comment-hooks, for me. 'Sum-ter'?

ERRATA/Hulan I'm all in favor of getting some wild blood into the SFPA. If things get too wild I may revert to the Old Me and exert typical Locke apathetic wrath, which should bring everything under control. (I say this in all seriousness, because no hint of mirth will ever soil this fanzine.)

STARLING/Luttrell For months I imagined that your title was inspired by the name of a bird. It was only recently that it dawned on me what your title probably means to you.

The Monday Evening Ghost was indeed a very popular fanzine at one time. I wouldn't call it the "Champ", but I would award it more popularity than Deckinger would. The mimeograph work was good, the articles were good, the artwork (a large part of it done by Ken Gentry, who seldom appeared anywhere else) was excellent, and it was usually a big zine. Bob was an awful typist, but his typos were so outrageous that a lot of fans came to look forward to them as one of the highpoints of the zine. Bob himself was unbelievable. His style of writing was simply overpowering and the volume of it untiring. I don't think I ever received a letter from him that was shorter than three times the length of this issue of Yellowjacket. Bob was a bit testy at times, and would argue over any little thing, but if you became a Good Friend you could snow him completely. For all his worldliness I believe that Bob was, and it's not unlikely that he still is, a cherry. I remember once, toward the end of our correspondence (after A Trip To Hell and before his gafiation) I deliberately started talking over his head about sex. He barraged me with truckloads of questions. I answered them all with truth, but the truth was so befuddled with fiction that instead of laughing I felt sorry for him when he swallowed it all and began pressing me for more information. He was so in the dark about what to Do with a girl (not how-to, but how to get her to) that I'd give my right arm to find out what happened if he tried to follow my "system". I was eventually going to tell him that I was only kidding - to get a mad reaction and enliven a dying (for me) correspondence - and perhaps even set him 'straight', but then he gafiated and the correspondence was given up as well. I understand he was active in comic fandom after that, but what he's doing now I don't know.

CLARGES/Atkins I liked this genzine - for a second issue it's a pretty fair job. Overly N3F for an SFPA (gen)zine, but an interesting issue.

ZAJE ZACULO/Bailes Good issue.

N'APA, when I was in it, had two main failings. First it abounded with crudzines, and second it contained too much talk about N3F policy. I published two issues in the apa before I got out.

MANNDATE/Mann A large page-count isn't necessary to produce a good zine. And by trying to expand page-count some publishers produce work inferior to what they would do if they just wound up their zine when they felt like it. Larger page-count is no answer to boosting the quality of SFPA. The only way to do that is to: 1) Concentrate more on your writing, 2) improve your layouts, 3) a very necessary improvement would be to get rid of the cruddy art that's in your files. Neoish art is probably the biggest fault that this apa has, and I personally am ashamed to look at some of it myself much less let anyone else see it.

The SFPA has some very good talent. Most everyone who participates by either writing or drawing, or both, is of at least average competency. Not everyone, not even 'most', unfortunately, are editors. The layout work in a lot of zines is quite lacking, and in some cases shows no signs of improving. If these people know who they are perhaps they could benefit by studying the layouts of some well-done fanzines, or by just giving up their attempts at layout and adopting a simple, uncluttered format such as I am using here.

Appearance counts a lot, and if everyone makes it their business to present good layout in their zines then there is a good deal of "improvement" right there.

These Montgomery-Hulan battles that appeared as postmailings: I never received any. I don't and didn't want any, but to be legal postmailings they should have been sent to everyone.

Back to Manndate. Interesting natterings in your mc's. Walk Don't Run is about my favorite instrumental. The only things that compare to it as far as my tastes go would be In The Still Of The Night, Dream Lover, Sleepwalk (all by Santo & Johnny) or some of the things that Don Lee has done, like Echo Echo Echo.

Feghoots are going from sadder to goddamn sadder.

ZINFANDEL/Hulans & Trimbles The most interesting thing about this is the way in which your writing deteriorated in steady proportion to the amount of wine you consumed.

SUCH AND SUCH/Luttrell Las zine to review, but unfortunately I don't have much to say about it.

I don't know what Avalon is publishing now, but in the past it published a fair number of good novels. I imagine Wasp was the best of the lot.

The magazine review was interesting, but it didn't interest me in the magazine.

See you in September.