

Avenging Aardvark's Aerie #1 by Ross Pavlac, Apt. B-10, 4654
Tamarack Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43229. Intended for Myriad #50.
Printing by Cele Smith.

Who am I? I've often wondered. For starters: Age 23, male,
Caucasian, 5'9", overweight, unmarried, red-brown hair.

I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1965, I became involved with the Cleveland fan group, which included such comic book and sf notables as Don & Maggie Thompson, Wayne Howard, Tony Isabella, and Jerry Kaufman. I was a very minor member of the 1966 Worldcon committee (licking envelopes and such). I defiliated in 1967 due to acute lack of money. After getting a degree in computer science at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, I was hired by Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus. Battelle is the world's largest independent research & development organization; you've never heard of us because we do contract research -- the companies (or Uncle Sam) that hire us get to slap their name onto the results of our work (we developed but did not invent the Xerox process, we hold many of the key patents on the laser, we invented Sno-pake, the white fluid that you use to make corrections on your typer, we do a lot of anti-cancer research, we do a lot of energy-crisis-oriented research, etcetcetc.) I am one of three systems programmers at Battelle; we are responsible for (a) diagnosing troubles with the computer if it dies or becomes ill; (b) fixing bugs in the operating system or in the programming languages used; (c) being the final authority for questions about how the computer works because we (in theory - chuckle, chuckle) know everything about how the computer works.

It's about time for a new paragraph. After getting settled in with Battelle, I got in contact with Columbus fandom. --and became enmeshed in the disastrous Columbus in '76 Worldcon bid. Columbus fandom seems to be recovering from the loss as well as can be expected. For some reason I seemeth to be getting involved deeper and deeper in fanac --and now an apazine?

I guess I'll spend the rest of my space here making comments on mailing #49.

SELECTRIC "Away With Words" is more than just a local
Larry Schultz rip-off; it's been across the country and back again. The admission is now up to \$3.75. What you said about it doesn't really sound all that different than what the commercials claim; but if the sound is atrocious I can easily see how it would be a waste of money. cc Andre Norton is underrated by a lot of people. I like her books (as a whole) very much. The biggest flaw in her works that irritates me is her refusal to include sex in situations that call for it; her hero(ine)s seem to be almost totally without sex drives. /*/ Some fans at a party at Discon were playing Phantom Zone Risk, which involves two Risk boards, one of which is in a parallel universe. The two universes only coincide at certain times. Once each time around the ring of players, a player got to be the Mad Satellite Bomber--he would draw a card and the country thus chosen would have all armies in its territory nuked out of existence. The rules were rather complicated and, I suspect, modified as play went on...

UP THE RIVER I find all the talk about Trekkies/Trekkers/
Sue Phillips etc. rather amusing. Although virtually
all of the Star Trek fans that I have talked
to proudly refer to themselves as Trekkers, I have yet to find
one individual who is willing (much less proud) to refer to
him/herself as a Trekkie. The thing that irritates me and so
many others about STrekdom is that so many of them
(i.e., Trekkies, etc.) act as though Star Trek was the culmin-
ation of SF and that it was the best SF show ever done--a lot
of the so-called Trekkers insist that Star Trek isn't the best
thing ever done; their attitudes show otherwise--during any dis-
cussions of SF-related topics, all of their responses and con-
tributions are formed within the framework of Star Trek. My
attitude when Star Trek is mentioned varies from mild cynicism
to jumping up and down screaming about what mutton-headed dolts
all Trekkies are -- depending on how much of a pain he/she is
making of him/herself. Although I cannot speak for other fans,
you are in no danger of physical mayhem from me.

TAPROOT Haircuts are a Fact of Life for those who
Andy Whitehead seek employment in the Real World of
Mundane. When I was looking for a job, I
had no luck whatsoever until I got a super-straight haircut.
Beginning with my next interview, I began getting plant visit
offers like crazy. Currently my hair is long again, but it
looks like I may be doing a fair amount of travelling on
company business next year; in order to ease relationships with
sponsors I shall once more have my suburn locks chopped.

Oh, one of the other Columbus fans got a letter from Phil
Farmer a couple of weeks ago; Farmer is doing the script for
the second Doc Savage movie.

TROLL I agree wholeheartedly with your comments
Brian & Betsy Perry on depression. As one of the many
amateur sf writers who is going to make
that first sale Real Soon Now, I can vouch from experience that
any periods of depression that I have gone through in the past
hindered my creativity much more than they helped it. (Even
though I'm in a reasonably "up" period right now, I still haven't
made that first pro sale. --which at least in my case would
indicate a complete lack of correlation.) Despite whatever
glory/fame it would offer, I have no desire whatsoever to be
another Robert E. Howard, H. Beam Piper, or H. P. Lovecraft.

MELLOW A friend of mine who has connections in film-
Wade Gilbreath dom claims to have seen a screening of
the first Doc Savage film (at a private
screening in New York a few months back). He was very
unimpressed. He liked Ron Ely as Doc, but was very turned
off by the casting of his sidekicks. He feels they
"camped it up too much". /**/ The Prisoner is without a doubt
the finest television series ever done. My best friend in
Dayton, Ohio gets to watch it in reruns on TV every Sunday;
the Dayton stations are too far away to be picked up in Col-
umbus and his good fortune drives me up the walls!

NOT MUCH 'A NOTHIN/REFLECTIONS
Cliff & Susan Biggers

Your running stencil
dialogue was fun to read,
but I imagine it was

awfully cramped with both of you fighting for the typer
keyboard. /**/ If the other members of a fannish commune
were as careful about handling books and magazines as I am,
I could probably tolerate having the majority of my collection
in a general pool. But-- my autographed books!!?!?! My 1909
Little Nemo Sunday sections!?! My 1898 Dracula!?! NEVER!!
/**/ I liked Tunnel in the Sky very much. My favorite
Heinlein is probably a toss-up between Puppet Masters and
Door Into Summer and Have Space Suit, Will Travel. /**/
Legalized prostitution will cut down the VD rate, but it
would have relatively little effect on who patronizes
prostitutes except to reduce the shame and embarrassment
somewhat. Anyone who wishes to procure the services of
a prostitute can do so with relatively little trouble(ex-
cept for the risk of being mugged, venereal disease, etc.--
altho if one patronizes the \$400/night call girls these risks
are minimal) pretty much anywhere in the country. /**/ Zappa
is strange. No, he's wierd. I interviewed him for my college
paper in 1969 and it was one of the strangest experiences I've
ever had. Part of the conversation was an sf rap in which we
traded book names--he was the person who first suggested that
I read Cat's Cradle, for which I shall be forever grateful.
His music always experiments with new (or old) ideas. I
would especially recommend the social/political comment-type
songs that are primarily on his first few albums. A lot of
them seem very tame today, but back in the mid- to late sixties
when they were written and first performed they were consid-
ered to be shocking and evil (and still are, to some extent,
at least to a lot of people. A group of friends of mine and
I were into the Mothers when we were in high school (class
of '69) and we were considered wierd for liking a group whose
songs weren't being played on Top 40 stations... /**/ Good
albums -- try to dig up Red Rubber Ball or Neon by the Cyrkle
(a very underrated group that fell apart primarily because
of management problems--they were the first American group
to be managed by Brian Epstein; after he died, things
collapsed for them. A shame...) or The United States of
America (NO relation to the currently popular group called
"America"), who put out an album by that name, and then changed
their name and put out an album called The American Metaphys-
ical Circus. My music tastes belong for the most part to the
Underground sound of the mid-sixties, before it became
commercialized by Top 40 stations. Oh yes-- also try to
find Trilogy for the Masses by Ford Theatre.

THIRD STONE FROM THE SUN
Larry Mason

The Unitarian Church does not
have an anti-sexual, anti-pleasure
bias, so I would note it as at

least one exception. Of course, the Unitarian-Universalist
Church is not generally considered to be Christian(although
it is Protestant)

