

Avenging Aardvark's Aerie #2 is intended for the 51st mailing of Myriad. Produced by Ross Pavlac, Apt. B-10, 4654 Tamarack Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43229. Phone: 614-885-8037. Dated January 29, 1975. A Grimsmith Publication.

Well, here I am again. It feels kind of strange, putting out a second apazine before I have gotten any comments/reactions on the first. For all I know I am being severely castigated in all of the surrounding zines....hmmm. I'll try this one anyway; if reaction to the first is atrocious, I'll just fold up my tent and slink away into the night....

Important announcement #1: My street is Tamarack Blvd., not Drive! Also, for any of you who have an address of mine with "Erin Acres" on it, my apartment complex has just been renamed "Northland Colony". Whee.

Important announcement #2: For those who don't already know it, we here in Columbus put on a con once a year. Marcon 10 will be held in Columbus on March 21-23. GoH: James Gunn. We will be having panels, films (including the very rare "Frau Im Munde" -- Fritz Lang's 1928 classic), hucksters, and an art show. Registration is \$4 before February 15, \$5 after. The banquet will be an Oriental buffet (cost: \$9 before February 15, \$9.50 after). In view of the fact that it is extremely unlikely that Columbus will ever bid for a worldcon again, we are trying to reshape Marcon into a friendlier, more structured convention. I realize that it is unlikely that most of you will be able to make it, what with most of you living in Georgia, but I would like to see Andy Whitehead, Joe Celko, Sue Philips, and Brian/Betsy Perry if at all possible. The con hotel is the Neil House Motor Hotel, 41 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. When writing for room reservations, do it soon -- that weekend is State Basketball Tournament weekend (those of you who live in the Midwest know what that means!) -- we do have a block of rooms reserved, but they go up for grabs after the first week of March! Be sure to mention Marcon when writing the hotel. Write to Marcon 10, 194 East Tulane, Columbus, Ohio 43202 for further information and maps.

Important announcement #3: After many years of searching for True Love, it appears that I have at long last found it. Therefore, on May 31 of this year I will be marrying Elise Itkin, who is currently a graduate student in mathematics at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. No, Elise is not a fan; however she does read some sf and fantasy. Marcon will be her first sf con -- which will give her a chance to see what she's getting into in case she decides she wants to back out (which is unlikely; she's gotten along well with the fans I have introduced her to so far).

A brief wantlist: I am looking for a copy of the Enlarged Devil's Dictionary, published in cloth in 1967, edited by Ernest J. Hopkins. I also need a copy of Jay Klein's 1966 Tricon photo book. Oh yes, the Devil's Dictionary was written by Ambrose Bierce.

I note that Barry Goldwater has just said that Nixon is thinking of re-entering politics as a speaker for the Republican party. It may be quite possible that Jerry Ford may deeply regret the day that he pardoned Nixon.

I also note that at least one university group reneged on its offer to pay Ron Zeigler to come to campus to speak. One by one, those guilty in Watergate (and those associated with the guilty) are serving token prison terms and then taking the speaking engagement/life story route to become rich and make money off of their crimes. Mitchell et al may have gotten stiffer sentences than most, but there is yet the appeal process to go through. I'm betting that Mitchell and his buddies serve nowhere near the length of time that they have been sentenced to.

Has anyone seen Phantom of the Paradise? It's about to hit town and the previews for it are really strange. It seems to be a rock-and-roll-oriented version of the Phantom of the Opera, made in a very tongue-in-cheek style. It's rated PG. Supposedly, it has won first prize at some French science fiction film festival that I never heard of.

On to the mailing comments::

TAPROOT You think you can't stand Woody Hayes!? I have
Andy Whitehead to live in this town and work across the street
 from the Big Farm (Ohio State University). Sports
fans here are just like they are most other places. As long as
Woody's boys are winning, he is loved and respected by all (well...
nearly all, anyway....), but as soon as he loses a game, the angry
mobs begin screaming for his head to be lopped off. /**/
Alan Alda (to the best of my knowledge) has never said "finestkind"
on the TV show. It's Hawkeye's favorite phrase in the books, but
I can't recall it being used by anyone on the TV show.

THE WALRUS SAID Your "new instruction set" is an expansion
Steve and Binker Hughes of one that appeared in the January
 1967 Datamation.

WHAT NOW Renewing one's Menomonee Falls Gazette sub is a must.
Gary Steele The Gazette is one of the best fanzines currently
 being done and is certainly the most regular. /**/
Bob Gaines, one of the local fen, is a paperback completist; he
is trying to accrue all of the paperback fantasy and stf ever
published and is well over the 50% mark. As one of the most
fanatical completists in the Midwest, Bob does draw the line at
buying one copy of each edition/printing. My attitude is one of
"if the edition you don't have has a spectacular cover or other
nice features, then you might consider picking it up, especially
if the edition you own is a good-to-poor copy and/or the cost is
less than cover price and/or you especially like the book". Normally,

I am spending so much money on the collection as it is without wasting money picking up duplicates of items I already have.

THINK BEFORE THOU SPEAKEST Farrell's is in Columbus, too. Never
Janet Davis go there on your birthday, especially
if you are embarrassed at being the
center of attention when they set off the bells, whistles, and
sirens. I am told that I have a loc coming up in SPIRIT #7.

REFLECTIONS/NOT MUCH A' NOTHIN' I have been looking for the Jason
Cliff and Susan Biggers Striker books for a long time and
haven't been able to find any of
them. /**/ In February, Joe Haldeman is having some historical
novels published by Pocket Books under the pseudonym of Robert
Graham. /**/ Pieces of Modesty? When was THAT published?????
/**/ I pretty much agree with your review about Dhalgren. One thing
--where did all you people get copies of the book from to be able
to read and review it by the last deadline???? /**/ When it comes
to the "which two sf books would you take to a desert island with
you?", one of my choices would be We All Died At Breakaway Station
by Richard C. Meredith. I strongly suspect the other would be
Norstrilia, which has just been printed for the first time (sort of).
The book is by Cordwainer Smith, no -- CORDWAINER SMITH!!!!!!
The novels that originally appeared as The Planet Buyer and
The Underpeople(which in turn originally appeared as several
short stories/novellettes) are, it seems, part of one larger
novel which was chopped into bite-sized pieces for greater saleability.
This is the first printing of the entire novel in its original
form (circa 285 pages). I have not read it yet; the weekend of
January 31 will be dedicated to Norstrilia, as was the weekend of
January 3 to Dhalgren. Delany of late has sacrificed plot in
favor of literary style and symbolism and "messages". Cordwainer
Smith gave style/symbolism and plot equal weight, and the results
are enchantingly beautiful, addicting, mind-demolishing stories
with real, live plots, tightly written yet crystalline....
/**/ Note - the "desert island" scenario did not include fantasy,
in which case Lord of the Rings would of course enter the competition.

THIRD STONE FROM THE SUN How about combining them and claiming that
Larry Mason Fandom is just a goddam lifelong hobby
(FIJAGLH)? FIJAGLH? Uuccchh!!

/**/ What are the going prices of used John Cleve books? /**/
Believe it or not, the stories in Before the Golden Age really are
among the best stf written at that time. That's also why Weinbaum
and Campbell are lauded as much as they are for turning the sf
field in a new direction!! Many fans today find it hard to under-
stand why Doc Smith is so respected by older fans and by those
fans who are willing to read stories in the context (chronological
context, at least) in which they were written -- his stuff, bad
as it may be by present-day standards, was so much better than the
majority of the other material written at the time. Also, many
of the concepts in Doc Smith's stories (such as adventure outside
of the solar system) made their first major appearance in the

Skylark and Lensman books.

And now, a one-page con report on Confusion 13:

The Columbus contingent at Confusion 13 (held January 24-26 in Ann Arbor, Michigan) consisted of yours truly, Jim Huttner, Gaye Hormats, Laurie Huff, Mark Evans, and Margaret Henry. Traveling with Jim and me was Jeannine Treese of WPSFA, the lone delegate from Pittsburgh.

Jim, Jeannine, and I arrived in Ann Arbor at a little after 10 p.m. Friday and discovered that the con was the scene of confusion (appropriately) due to the fact that (a) the hotel had overbooked as per usual, and (b) more than 330 fans were there, twice what Ro Nagey (chairman of the con) was expecting, and four times what last year's attendance was. The hotel claimed that our room had been cancelled at 6:00, so we appealed to Ro who tried to help us find a place to crash. Linda Bushyager failed to show, so I got her room. When the other car from Columbus arrived, Laurie produced a confirmed reservation and a room magically appeared. Linda's room was then given to George R. R. Martin (who had made a reservation, but whose room was given to Jack Chalker by Ro when it began to look as if George wasn't going to show but George did show and....).

At one point, the hotel night manager (who had never seen an sf con in action) panicked when he thought that the fans were about to tear his hotel apart (and called the police. The panic was unjustified; the party was no more rowdy than any of the other con parties I've been to in the past year. When the police arrived, someone suggested that Yang and his Dorsai form a defensive perimeter around the con suite (fortunately, no one paid any attention). By the time the police had arrived, the party had magically quieted down and Ro and his committee were able to talk calmly with the police.

Panels at the con were generally quite good (at least those I attended), with some fannish panels, some pro panels, and some panels with scientists on them. At 4:30 on Saturday, I gave a seminar on "The problems involved in computerizing a science fiction collection", which turned out reasonably well.

On Sunday afternoon, there was the usual problem of not wanting to leave the con and return to the "real world". This was not helped by Fondlecon I, which began with Rusty Hevelin sitting on the couch in the hotel lobby with his arms around two femmefans. Someone sat down and began holding the hand of one of the femmefans. Then someone else joined the group and another and another. Hands were soon used up, so those of us who are foot fetishists went to feet. At its peak, there were 14 or fifteen of us in the lobby clustered around the couch holding onto hands and feet and whatever.... By this time, nearly everyone had left and virtually all of the rest of the people in the lobby were mundanes who were unable to fathom what was going on. Some of the charter members of Fondlecon were: myself, Jim Huttner, Rusty, George R. R. Martin, Karen Pauls, Jack Chalker, Jeannine Treese, Gail Burnick, Gay Haldeman (wife of Joe), and Randy Bathurst. It broke up when several of us reached the point where we absolutely HAD to leave in order to get home at a reasonable time. Fondlecon II is scheduled to be held at Marcon.

All in all, it was the most pleasant con I've been to since the last Marcon. Ro did a very good job.../**/ end of the issue.