The Spirit Section died on October 5th of 1952. Steranko says a week before, but the date isn't so important. What is important is that after some two decades of one-shots, reprints, and undergrounds, Will Eisner is back. But he never really was gone.

So as not to rehash the well-chroni-
cled past of the Spirit, I want to delve mainly into the more recent Spirit items on the market, and give my opinion on the whole spectrum of present Spirit products...Will over-exposure kill him?

It was in 1966 and 1967 that Harvey Publications made an attempt to cash in on the super hero rage. They created a group of adventure heroes of their own: Pirhana, Bee-man, Jack Frost, Spy-man and Jigsaw. They reprinted the Simon & Kirby "Fighting American" stories, and Kirby's "Three Rocketeers". They got Al Williamson and Reed Crandall, as well as Wally Wood, to do new stories. They also had The Spirit.

The opening stories, featuring a new Spirit origin in the first issue and the origin of "The Octopus" in the second issue, were new Eisner. Both issues also featured a number of new one-pagers with the Spirit, which the Eisner shop handled. It was, to me, something quite different from the usual brightly-garbed Marvel super hero that I had been weaned on. It was unique and in my twelve-odd years before I had never seen anything like it. That was my first encounter with him.

A sequence from "SILKEN FLOSS, M.D.", published in March, 1947. (reprinted in THE SPIRIT #2)

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the April 14, 1946 story; the two "Octopus" stories from November 10th and 17th of that year; and an undated story from that era. All four are excellent, and almost look better in black-and-white than they originally did in color.

The cover was a wraparound with a rather mature theme. In Full-color it was a magnificent piece of work portraying a crime convention with two females holding the Spirit in their clutches and arguing over him while Commissioner Dolan, tied & beaten, hangs in the background. The Spirit was back.

A year passed before a second issue of the Spirit underground hit the stands. It too had a newly drawn cover by Eisner, picturing a line of bodies behind an obviously angry Spirit who stalks F'Gell. She stands draped suggestively on a block of letters spelling out "The Spirit", proclaiming that "This is a magazine for adults". The cover wraps around the book, with Commissioner Dolan, Ellen and Saree, F'Gell's daughter, standing before a big poster of the Spirit. It is a fine full-color picture.

The insides have an introduction by John Benson, well known fan and fan writer, to start off. The introduction is an in-depth review of the "femme fatales" the Spirit has faced, and leads up to the theme of the whole issue: F'Gell.

The first story, from October 6, 1946 introduces F'Gell in a story titled, "Meet F'Gell". She lies on a couch peering thru alluring half-shut eyes at the reader saying, "I am F'Gell --- and this is not a story for little boys!"

Indeed, the next three stories take you into the world of F'Gell, the female "Bluebeard", as she marries her way thru intrigue and suspense in elaborate plans that have the inevitable conclusion that will make her rich. The other stories, of January 19, 1947 and August 3, 1947, just support her reputation.

The last story is particularly significant because it is an all-new story. The script, as mentioned on the back cover, was one that was unused by Eisner and written back in 1950. The art, though, is all-new, and done in a washed effect without borders. A little rushed-looking, it still retains all the flavor of his former Spirit stories.

Next on the Spirit parade was something published in Canada: The Tabloid Press Spirit. It was an all-new Spirit adventure measuring 12 inches by 16 inches, six pages in length, printed in color on heavy stock paper. Five pages of the book are story, with the sixth a comment on the story behind the creation of the episode. Eisner does the artwork, inking, story and color for the package, and it is a fine piece of work, printed clearly. The whole thing is a classic as set to any collection.

Titled, "The Invader," the story deals with an alien landing on Earth and his experiences with earth people. Needless to say, he came to conquer & fail. The entire time he is on earth roaming around, the Spirit is after him. In the end, the Spirit finds him, and there is a twist ending.

Commercially, the biggest Spirit coup was the February 1974 issue of Warren's Eerie horror magazine. After a bit of drum-rolling, it was finally revealed that the Spirit would be working for Warren Publications. He re-entered the underground market after a success in the under
grounds. Eisner had signed to do a book for Warren, so the EERIE story was just a sample of things to come. The Spirit took the center story of EERIE #54, a reprint of the old Spirit story with color by the ace of color, former underground artist Richard Corben. The story was fantastic, and seemed to work well in its new environment. The Spirit had fought back up the long trail to prominence successfully.

The Spirit magazine appeared soon after the EERIE story, in February of 1974; it was an excellent package, winning the approval and sparking the enthusiasm from many critics and fans. The cover painting by Basil Gogos was based on the popular pop star print which had been published by the publishers of the black & white Spirit packets and illustrated by Eisner, and it led off the premiere issue in fine style. Reprinted in the issue were seven Spirit strips from: March 26, 1946; April 13, 1947; July 20, 1947; November 20, 1947; December 8, 1946; March 2, 1947; and January 26, 1947. The center story, with color added by Corben, was a new Spirit strip by Eisner, and it featured the return of Castinet and the ominous Octopus. Eisner was legion. With fine reproduction on all the reprints, and the new story addition, this first issue had to be one hell of a way to usher in 1974.

EERIE #55 also featured an all-color Eisner Spirit adventure, and the SPIRIT #2 has since proven to be every bit as great as #1.

All of the mentioned Spirit items, excepting the Tabloid Spirit and the undergrounds and, of course, the Harvey books, are available from Warren Publications.

The Tabloid Press Spirit is available from Tabloid Press / P.O. Box 1064 / Oakville, Ontario / CANADA for $3.40, or from the S.P.C.A. for a bit less.

The undergrounds can be purchased directly from Krupp Comix Works Inc. / P.O. Box 5699 / Milwaukee, Wisconsin / 53211... and the Harvey books are available at your favorite used comic book store, with a going price of about $4.00 for the first issue, and about $3.00 for the second.

(Note: By the time you read this, Warren Publications may already be selling some, or most, of these other items we’ve listed above...except for the Harvey comics.Check ads in their magazines to make sure...)

Since completing this article, certain other recent Spirit items have surfaced that I’d forgotten, been unable to obtain in order to write a complete overview, or have just been released.

The first items are the second and third issues of the excellent Warren Spirit magazine, featuring, again, black and white reprints coupled with seven-page color strips in the center of the magazine. #2 reprints "Heel Scallopini" from February 23, 1947, a story dealing with corruption in the big city in the area of politics. It is a stark morality play about how a campaign in Central City’s fifth election district is run. Sadly, it is true to a great extent. The splash page with the beaten figure of Joe Scallopini, lying heaped in a pile of flesh and bone is quite effective. The second story from January 4, 1948, is a typical Eisner femme fatale tale which introduces "Pawder Pout" and her companion "Bleak", a classic victim of circumstances. Bleak re-turns in the following week’s adventure, also reprinted here, in "The Fallen Sparrow". Also reprinted are: "Merry Andros" from February 15, 1948, which features some fine lettering on the splash and in the story; the newly-drawn "Hortimer J. T. Tompkins" story in fine color; "The O. D. Plan" from April 16, 1948, which is my favorite from the issue; "UFO" with Eisner’s spoof of Orson Welles and the "War of the Worlds" broadcast from September 28, 1947; and the introduction story for Silken Floss from March 9, 1947.

#3 features such great Spirit tales as: "Black Alley", "Fox at Bay", "Surgery", "Toll Flay", "Taraffin" (in color), "The Embezzler", "The Last Hand", and "Lonesome Cool", in addition to an interview with The Spirit conducted by Eisner himself, which may tell more about Mr. Eisner than it does The Spirit! (and a conclusion that sees The Spirit get the best of his "boss"...). It is my hope that this truly invaluable project can be financially successful and continue.

Also previously neglected in my article were the I.W. Super Reprints. Specifically of interest are issues #11 and #12 which feature reprints of the Spirit stories that were originally featured in the Quality comics. The I.W. Reprints were published during the early and mid-sixties, and featured reprints of several quality characters like Plasticman and, of course, The Spirit, as well as other items by Charlton. The reprints were published by Israel Valdman, one-half of the present-day Skywald publishing corporation. The Spirit reprints featured an average of three Spirit stories (usually 2 seven-pagers and one five-pager) backed-up by a humor-detective feature, "Platfoot Burns"; the Spirit stories were untitled.

The list of fanzines and magazines with articles about Eisner and reprinting full adventures of the Spirit or featuring good reproductions of particular pages include the fine two-issue analysis of Eisner in "Sense of Wonder" #s 11 and 12; the excellent reprints of an entire Spirit section in "Comic Media" #11; and, of course, if you haven’t read Volume 2 of Steranko’s History of the Comics, there is a fantastic black-and-white reproduction of the Spirit section from March 7, 1948 in large tabloid size. The December 1973 issue of "Changes" magazine also featured an article about Will Eisner and his brainchild. The Monomoon Falls gazette has also been reprinting the Bob Powell daily Spirit strips, as they originally appeared.

For the future, the Warren - Spirit should quench any Spiritophile’s thirst and I understand that the reprint packets will soon resume, and may have already resumed by the time you read this. Indeed, the Spirit seems to have rolled up its sleeves, pushed his tongue into his cheek and leaped back into the fray to stay...

Welcome back, Denny...
TODAY GERMANY, TOMORROW...

by Steven Wright

It didn't exactly roar onto the scene. In fact, it was more like a whisper. But PERRY RHODAN NUMBER ONE arrived. Probably the main reason for its lack of popularity was the title, which indicated it was the first book in a series, and it wasn't the only series. Ace, the publisher had at the time. Personally, I had tried the other series, AGENT OF TERRA and STAR WOLF, and I wasn't about to try another. Furthermore, the first adventure's title didn't help; "Enterprise Stardust" sounded like a Star Trek swipe, and I wasn't impressed enough to even purchase it.

The stories themselves are translations from the highly successful German pulps. The basis for the Perry Rhodan series is this: When the first manned moon flight landed in 1971, the astronauts découvred a spacecraft from a far-advanced civilization. Rhodan, leader of the Earth team, managed to establish contact with the Akronite crew whose ship had been damaged. Eventually, Earth, fearing that Rhodan and the aliens might attack, destroyed the craft, leaving Rhodan and his crew with only a shuttle craft (powerful enough, incidentally, to take over the entire planet). Rhodan then built a city in the Gobi desert with the aid of the Akronite survivors: Krest (head of the Akronite books) and Thora; the former a scientist, Thora, a naughty female. They were both humanoid abnormals, differing only in rib structure from conventional human beings. Since that time, P.R. has repelled attacks by Earth powers as well as by extra-solar aliens investigating the Akronite S.O.S. His plans now call for an organization of Earth into a giant union.

At first, there were five Rhodan paperbacks issued on a quarterly schedule, then publication ceased. These editions, with Gray Morrow covers and stories per book, were enjoyable. Since each story was from a different German pulp, the reader actually got two-for-the-price-of-one. In addition, there were eleven stories in those ten. "Help For The Earth", from German edition 9, was left out without disturbing the series.

This was the American beginning. The beginnings in Germany were quite different. P.R. first appeared in 1961, and has been published weekly ever since. To date, that amounts to over 600 adventures. The format in Germany is the Pulp, These modern versions have wraparound covers, and appear to be comic books at first glance. Color paintings adorn the covers. The novel is interrupted periodically by three or four illustrations per book, and now, there is not only a letters page, but also a dictionary page defining terms used in connection with the stories. Occasionally, there is a diagram of one of Rhodan's ships. These are cutaways with labels on all items of interest.

The stories are not written by just one single author, but by an entire bull pen of five or six writers, several of whom are well known in Germany. The stories are not collaborations, as each author alternates in no set pattern. Some of the names include Walter Ernsting, Kurt Mahr, and K.H. Scheer.

The covers are usually well done, by a number of German artists, although some look familiar; most notably is number 240 which is reminiscent of James Bama, picturing "Doc Savage" or a look-alike, sitting on some sort of throne, drenched in futuristic armor and flanked by a panorama of planets.

Normally the covers are playgrounds for various alien creatures attempting to lure you inside. Most are tasteful, failing to portray a life-or-death battle situation like most comics; instead the covers merely recreate a scene from inside the magazine, usually a colorful one, although at times a scene as dreary as a group of soldiers in need of a shave just tramping through a jungle, is pictured.

This was the reason for Perry's success: colorful covers with stories to match. Success was not just limited to Germany, however. Two years before Rhodan ever reached U.S. shores, he had already left his fatherland, and had appeared in both French and Dutch weekly editions. So, the U.S. was Rhodan's third invasion of foreign soil, and his least successful.

In Germany, the Rhodan books were a huge success, and the demand for back issues became so great that Moewig-Verlag, the publisher, released second editions. Running about 260 issues behind the original, the reprint series is issued weekly with new letters, ads, and dictionary fittings, along with a "2nd Edition" logo on the cover to avoid confusion.
Hardly a year had gone by when the editors realized Perry Rhodan still had a lot of potential in back issues, so they hauled out all unsold copies of the second editions, re-stamped them as "3rd editions", and distributed weekly. To top it all off another edition began in February of '73, with the same format and schedule as the others.

Rhodan's potential isn't limited to reprints, as another outlet Hoevig-Verlag cashed in on was comic books. Four years ago, PERRY RHODAN IN BILD (P.R. ILLUSTRIERT) appeared as a comic adaption of the pulps. The stories were handled well, as was the art, printed on slick paper, and had paintings for most covers, though a few were line drawings. A few short stories rounded out each book, featuring such characters as Gukey, an intelligent alien called a mouse-beaver used as a funny animal and Atlas, an Akronite alien allied with Perry Rhodan, and UPO Agent, who has nothing to do with the Rhodan series. This comic title ran for 27 issues on a weekly schedule when the publishers decided that new adventures, written especially for comics, would sell better.

Until now, the clothes of the women, when any are worn at all, were probably far too skimpy for American comics, and in many cases still are. Recent issues also occasionally feature an 8-page black-and-white strip based on UFO, the English-made television series. PERRY RHODAN, UNSER HANN IN ALL is still published bi-weekly and has run some 84 issues.

A major outgrowth of the Perry Rhodan series is Atlas, Atlas is an Akronite prince, and shows much more vitality than the average Akronite, a swiftly-degenerating civilization; he may have come from a past time, since his adventures take place throughout all time periods: Ancient China, Medieval Europe, Atlantis, and among the Incas, and he has the energy that the natives of Akron had thousands of years ago when they built a now-crumbling galactic empire. This mystery man first appeared in P.R.'s 50, in a story completely devoted to him. For the next 30 issues, every tenth issue belonged to Atlas, and he proved so successful that he was brought to the future to team up with Perry, and was rewarded with his own bi-weekly pulp, which reached the 80 mark due to its popularity.

About this time, the publishers decided that Perry Rhodan was getting proper text coverage in a weekly pulp, so a paperback series was launched, much like the pulp with its color cover and text novel. It was published monthly, and, after several issues, settled into a definite format with the same characters.

A second series of paperbacks is also issued monthly, having begun when the first edition series was about 60 issues old. Now there have been over 100, and recently, there has been a new look to the books. The paperback covers are now print -ed on highly visible, resistant stock. The only U.S. paperback I've seen like this was Lancer's special limited-edition of Asimov's The Naked Sun. The covers do not crease as easily as common cardboard, and they give the paperbacks a very expensive look.

Instead of a 28th issue of PERRY RHODAN IN BILD, PERRY RHODAN UNSER HANN IN ALL (P.R., Our Man In Space) #1 was published, featuring good art and improved covers, as well as an original storyline. Here Perry and his top co-stars from the pulps, Gukey, Reginald Bell (also a member of the first moon trip), Don Redhorse (an Indian-type), and a few others, were teamed-up to roam the galaxy in Rhodan's superships, the Crest (named after the now-dead Akronite). Some stories feature PR in solo adventures, while others focus on the entire team.

The art is still good, as I said, but occasionally Marvel pulps crop up. They appear funny in this context, since Tiger Shark may be seen colored differently, as an alien, or a green Thing as an exile in another dimension. However, original art travels west as well as east, and P.R. has had art good enough to swipe. The Captain Future paperback series by Lancer featured some covers by Frazetta and Jones; all of the other covers were reprinted from Perry Rhodan pulp covers. In fact, Calling Captain Future reproduced the cover from P.R. #176.

During the last year, the comic art has begun to emphasize the female body, &

From Outer Space" in Europe, received limited U.S. release under the title "Mission Stardust". There have also been hard covers, posters of several designs, and stamps. And, in addition, dozens of fan-clubs have sprung up, the largest one of which names itself after one of Rhodan's ships.

On his latest expedition, into America, I feared that paperback #5 might be Rhodan's last English adventure, since no new edition had appeared for months. Then after I'd just about given up hope, I delightedly spied the sixth book, and it greeted me with a new style which, regrettable, included reduction to one pulp translation per book. Each issue contained short stories unrelated to the series, as well as a letters page and an sf movie column. The most outstanding change: the covers, as for the next eight issues, Gray Morrow would not do the art. Instead, the paintings from the German originals, or so Editor Ackerman tells us; in reality, they are redrawn versions with colors less vivid, backgrounds different, etc... The German originals were far better than these cheap imitations, as a glance at the actual reprints on Captain Future will indicate. Even these, however, are not as colorful as the original German editions.

With issue #16, Gray Morrow returned as the cover artist, and has continued in that position since, even doing the covers for the second editions of 66-13.

To date, Rhodan has had many exciting adventures defending Earth from his base in Terrania with the aid of his allies and the Mutant Corps., people whose parents had been exposed to radiation who, because of this qualification, are mostly Japanese. They include not only telepaths and telekinetics, but also teleporters, mentalists who can take possession of a person's body, and men who can detect invisible electromagnetic energy, see in the dark, look through solid objects, or hear radio waves.

With all this, Rhodan's future is staggering, not only in action but also sheer volume as well. The popularity of the series can be measured by the nearly 400 novels written and published, or by the 100 million copies sold. A measure of the magnitude is the time span. Rhodan landed on the moon in 1971, and issue #600 takes place in the year 3566. That amounts to a span of almost 1500 years, so in all that there surely is something for everyone; the only problem is, you have to be able to read German, since we will never get everything translated.

Even this is not all of the Rhodan story. Some time back, a movie was made, based on the first few pulps, but it only followed the outlines, however, and was referred to by Castle of Frankenstein as a "mediocrity". The film, entitled "S.O.S.
THE WORLD!

Just as Sicily is the strategic key to Italy, the United States is the strategic key to the world. Now it appears FR is on the verge of taking that key. The five quarterly trial issues gained a toehold for Rhodan; he enlarged to a beachhead with the monthly issues. Now America faces a foreign conqueror for the first time since she won her independence. Perry Rhodan is appearing twice a month...24 times a year. This equals the record for any similar material here, a record set when The Shadow went to two issues every month in the 30's.

Each issue is basically the same as the monthly issues were, complete with Gray Morrow covers, occasional interior pieces by Juanillo swiped from the German pulp covers, an editorial, letter column, film column, short stories, and something new: original stories. S-F fandom has had two choices for original material, until now; pulps or anthologies. Granted, this new alternative isn't about to set fandom on fire, but it has allowed several fans to have stories published for their first time, among them has been Steven Utley, who has since sold other stories. Original stories, an interesting experiment to begin with, could evolve into something very worthwhile.

Forrest J. Ackerman, the editor of the paperback editions, also does a serialized novel. The first three novels were notably insignificant, a sequel to H.G. Wells's War of the Worlds being the most memorable. The fourth serial, Cosmos, is more promising.

Mentioned by Jim Steranko in his His- tory of Comics Vol. 1, this novel was or -iginally published in one of the first s-f fanzines forty years ago. Each chapter was handled by a different author, all of them professionals. Some of the collaborators include: E.E. Doc Smith, A. Merritt, Oris Adelbert Kline, Edmond Hamilton, and John W. Campbell. The books are probably worth buying if only just for this serial which began in number 32.

It has been suggested that other s-f translations be presented, since at present we see far too little foreign s-f. A move like this could possibly start a minor revolution.
Rhodan's story lines have been expanding outward. Perry left the solar system to battle a race called the Springer- ers. This was an interesting multi-issue interlude, since the Springer were not a race out to imperialistically annex the entire galaxy, as so often is portrayed in s-f stories. This was a capitalistic race who crushed economic opposition (a German satire of America, perhaps)? They felt threatened when Rhodan began trade with the Vega system, although Vega had no interstellar fleet and presumably no contact with any extra-Vegan race, except for Rhodan. At any rate, the Springers had enough might to destroy Rhodan's entire fleet, forcing him to resort to strategy rather than sheer power. This strategy involved devices so sophisticated that Akronida science could not duplicate them... devices made on the planet Wanderer by the being who gave Rhodan immortality. When the Springers were repelled, FR turned to the task of fulfilling his promise to return the two Akronides to their home planet. This turned out to be no easy task, since difficulties encountered included battling "hundreds of berserk ro-bots" on a planet 3700 light years from Earth. It's been said before, but, if you like space opera, Perry Rhodan is it.

Unfortunately, Ackerman, the American editor, constantly turns the editorial and letters page into a punster's paradise, geared apparently to the brain of an elementary school flunky. Now, perhaps this says something about Ackerman's intelligence, I don't know, and I don't mean to sound like I'm insulting a man who has been a part of s-f fandom for so long; it's just that the format he uses leaves a lot to be desired. It's similar to the punny attitude of Famous Monsters of Filmland, which used to be enjoyable, before it became all corn.

Unfortunately, Mr. Ackerman has another annoying habit, that of creating new words where there is no need for them. As an example, he is not content to use s-f as an abbreviation for science fiction, so he uses in addition to it sci fic. Unlike some other fans, I don't object to this abbreviation, but I cannot stand sci fic, or scientifilm for s-f movie, or specficion for speculative fiction. I suppose I could be nit-picking, but...

An updated glance at Germany reveals that the series is static; that is, if seven original novels and two new comicbook versions every month can truly be called "static". No new steps have been taken, but Moewig-Verlag hasn't back-pedaled either.

Holland has paralleled the American story, having released six paperback issues followed by a long lapse. Later, monthly publication began in pulp form. They have since gone to bi-weekly. Though originally the Dutch reprinted the German covers, now they are repainting them, as Ace did on issues 6-13. This, as in America, hurts the quality.

With Holland abandoning the paper-back format, only the USA is using this method as the primary means of selling Rhodan. This seems to have caused one significant problem: paperbacks do not have distribution comparable to magazines. I am surprised that the issues have sold well enough to go to twice-a-month schedule. In this area, it is often difficult to locate issue; hopefully it is not a national problem, but it will be corrected. A lack of distribution could well prohibit interested fans from enjoying the many FR adventures.
Europe has fallen! My Hitler army moves into Africa and Eurasia--mop-up jobs! The world is mine to play with!

Hey, troop, share a hole! It's hot 'n' heavy up there.

My home or my grave is open to friends!

The skulls below represent those common citizens who could not go along with the new order and proceeded to protest at the various command posts of Greenhorn. In total, the population of the Americas was reduced by one for each.

Yipe! Chinese!!
Guess we were bound to bump heads--what with those Hitler heads pushin' us back! Strange life!

But what chance have we got? The Americans couldn't even stand up to these monsters!

Not true! America's leaders simply made a business deal toward what they hoped would show an advantageous profit. They sold out, and they sold out very, very short!
ALL IS SECURE, MASTER!
THE CITIES, THE RURAL AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA ARE ALL STRONGLY GARRISONED AND PRESENTLY AWAIT YOUR SELF-AMUSING DIRECTIVES.

THANK YOU HITLER NO. 1!!

THE OVER-ALL PLAN IS TO SLOWLY AND PLEASURABLY DECIMATE ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET CALLED EMERALD SO THAT WHEN I LEAVE IT TO SEEK, HA, GREENER PASTURES ON OTHER WORLDS - ONLY WEEDS AND INSECTS RECEIVE THE BENEFICIAL WARMTH OF THE GREEN SUN OF THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!

SUCH IS THE NATURE OF THE HOERNE SPECIES FROM WHICH I AM Spawned THAT THE ONLY EVII WE CAN TAKE DELIGHT IN IS THAT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED AMONG A RACE OF ALIEN PEOPLE! THIS WAS, OF COURSE, AGAINST THE LAW ON MY PLANET. THAT IS WHY I WAS EXILED INTO THE VOID! I HAD DISCOVERED THE MEANING OF THAT LAW IN MY ILLEGAL PLANETARY TRAVELS. I GOT CAUGHT, WAS SENTENCED AND ESCAPED!

NO DOUBT THE HOERNE POLICE HAVE DETECTED MY ABSENCE FROM THE VOID. BUT BY THE TIME THEY SCAN THIS TIME-SPACE DIMENSION - THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING HERE!

NO DOUBT YOU ARE ALL PLEASED BY THESE PERSONAL REVELATIONS!! YOU WILL ALSO BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION WILL BE PERMITTED TO LIVE THE LONGEST!!

HURRAY FOR GREENHORN!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! AH, THANK EVILNESS FOR THE HOMICIDAL LUNATIC WARDS HERE!

AND NOW HERE ARE MY TWO SETS OF DAY-TO-DAY ORDERS, ONE FOR THE ARMY AND ONE FOR THE GENERAL POPULACE!

ON THE FIRST DAY OF EACH WEEK, EVERY PERSON 18 AND OVER SHALL GAIN TWENTY POUNDS IN THE ONE DAY! FOR THOSE 17 TO 18, AN END OF THE DAY WEIGHT MUST SHOW A CONSUMPTION OF TEN POUNDS. YOUNGER THAN EIGHT ARE FORBIDDEN TO EAT ON THE FIRST DAY...

THE 2ND DAY SHALL BE LAZINESS DAY. NO PERSON SHALL MOVE AT ALL FOR ANY REASON EXCEPT CHILDREN 8 YEARS AND YOUNGER...

DO YOU THINK HE SAW US?
DOES IT MAKE ANY REAL DIFFERENCE? DON'T MOVE!

THE 3RD DAY OF EACH WEEK SHALL BE NAKED LADIES DAY! ALL FEMALES SHALL WEAR NO CLOTHING AT ALL AND SPEND THE DAY OUT-OF-DOORS. THERE SHALL BE NO SOCIALIZING WITH MALES. THERE SHALL BE ABSOLUTE SILENCE FOR ALL, MALE, FEMALE, YOUNG AND OLD!

KEEP MOVING!

KEEP STUFFIN!

KEEP MOVING!
THE FOURTH DAY SHALL BE NAKED MEN'S DAY, ETC. ETC....

THE FIFTH DAY SHALL BE CALLED VIOLENCE DAY! EVERYONE SHALL COMMIT FIVE ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON PROPERTY BELONGING TO ANOTHER. ALL ACTS MUST BE CERTIFIED THRU MY HITLER ARMY. VIOLENT WITNESSES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR CERTIFICATION!!

OK, MAC, I GOT IT DOWN!

THE SEVENTH DAY WILL BE HATE GOD DAY! IN WHICH ALL SHALL ENGAGE IN VEHMENT DENUNCIATIONS OF THE VARIOUS RELIGIONS, FORMS OF ALTRUISM, REASON, HUMANITARIANISM, AND WISDOM! ALL ACTS MUST BE CERTIFIED AND BE IN THE FORM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION! STORIES, POEMS, PLAYS, SONGS, PAINTING, DRAWING, COMICS, ETC. WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. PRIZES FOR THE BEST GARbage WILL BE AWARDED!!

IT'S A STORY ON HOW JESUS BETRAYED THE NATURE LAW OF SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!

FAR TOO DEEP WORK!

WONTROP ST STUDY COMMITTEE

I'M PLACING YOU THREE GREEN WITCHES IN CHARGE OF DISCHARGING THESE ORDERS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE ALL HIGHLY QUALIFIED! KNOW THAT IN A FEW DAYS I SHALL BE MAKING CONSTANT TOURS.

THE GOLDEN PHANTOM HAS ARRIVED!!


AMAZING!
YOU SECOND RATER GO ON AND ON!
HOW TRULY DIFFERENT YOU ARE FROM MOST PEOPLE. IS THERE NOTHING THAT CAN MAKE THE REMAINDER OF YOUR KIND GIVE IT UP!!?

NOTHING!
OUR LIVES HAVE MEANING BEYOND MERE SELF-PRESERVATION.

WE THIRST TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE AND PEACE UNTIL OUR FINAL BREATH!

AWRGG!
I THINK YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW HOW TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN! AND I AM BEGINNING TO FIND YOU COSTUMED, ONE-TRACK MINDED JERKS VERY BORING!!

YA KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WHEN LIFE HERE HAS BEEN AGONIZINGLY SQUEEZED OUT? — AND I'VE SAFELY GONE ON TO ANOTHER PLANET——

I AM GOING TO RELEASE YOU AND ALL THE OTHER SUPER HEROES FROM THEIR IMMobilIZATION TUBES. IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE AND PEACE WITH NO PEOPLE AROUND! HA HA HA HA!!

TEN TO ONE YOU ALL COMMIT HARI-KARI TO ESCAPE YOUR DESPAIR!!

BRRR. I'VE DONE ENOUGH SPYING...

WHAT'S LEFT OF GOOD EMERALD HAS BUT ONE HOPE...

TO REALIZE THAT HOPE I MUST DO SOMETHING THAT I'M NOT SURE I CAN DO...

IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE BUT IF IT TAKES GUTS NO ONE HAS MORE THAN PLASTIC GREEN!
I'M THE LAST OF THE SUPERHEROES WITH ANY KIND OF SUPERABILITY AT ALL!

I DON'T DARE TAKE ON GREENHORN AND HIS HITLER ARMY BY MYSELF.

MORE POWER IS NEEDED! MORE SUPERPOWER FOR AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON THE ARMY AND GREENHORN...

THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE THERE IS STILL ENOUGH RESERVE SUPERSOCKERS -- LIMBO!

I'VE GOT TO REACH THOSE GUYS. LET 'EM KNOW WE NEED THEM. WANT THEM ONCE AGAIN!! Especially Green Lama, The Marvels, Bullets, whatev...
RUN YOU DEVIL DOGS!

BOOGEY BOOGEY BOOGEY

WHEW! I'M GETTIN' EXHAUSTED! THOSE GUYS BETTER SHOW UP QUICK!

CURSES, CRISIS, CRAPUS!!
IS THERE NO ONE THAT CAN RID ME OF THIS RUBBER BAND MAN?

HE DELAYS THE GRAND PLAN!!!
HE IS CUNNINGLY DECEITFUL MASTERC!
AND DECEPTIVELY CUNNING!
HIS LUNGING IS DECEITFUL!

USELESS CACKLERS!
receive the slap of censorship!
YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK AGAIN!

SIR, SIRE, YOUR LORDSHIP - THERE'S A CIVILIAN WHO SAYS HE HAS A WEAPON THAT WILL DEFEAT THE PLASTIC ONE!!

BRING THE KLOD IN! QUICKLY, DUMKOF!

WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT IS THIS WEAPON?
WHERE IS IT?!

IT IS HERE, MOST EVIL ONE - IN MY HAND...

YOU HAVE NOTICED THAT THE DEVIL HAS NO BELLY BUTTON. YOU DO KNOW WHY, DON'T YOU? —ED.
I CALL IT
GREEN MARVEL’S
ALL-DAY SUPER
SUCKER SOCK!

WELL? AREN'T YOU HITLER
STOOGES COMING TO THE
AID OF YOUR LEADER?

AHG

GASP!

ARE YOU
KIDDIN'!?!

THIS CAT
WAS GONNA
BUMP
EVERYBODY
OFF!

WE WAS
JUST
TRYIN’
TO
SURVIVE
AS LONG
AS
POSSIBLE...

BESIDES,
WE
REMEMBER
YOU!

THE BEST
THING WE
CAN DO
IS BEAT
A HASTY
RETREAT!

BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE AN OLD
STORY. YOUR POWER INSPIRED
A SERVITUDE TO FEAR. POWER
GONE, LOYALTY VANISHES!
POP OFF GREENHORN!
IT'S TIME SOMEBODY
RID YOU OF YOUR DEVIL!
HA-HA!

MY ARMY!
THERE'S STILL
MY WORLD-WIDE
KILLER ARMY!!

RIGHT YOU ARE!
LET'S LISTEN IN
TO SURRENDERS,
CAPITULATIONS AND,
OR PLEAS FOR HELP
FROM YOUR OTHER
COMMAND POSTS!

LOOK AT ME!
YOU ARE IN
MY POWER!

SORRY SPORT, THAT
HYPNO-STUFF ONLY WORKS
WITH WEAK MINDS!

FROM ACROSS THE NATION AND AROUND THE WORLD

MASTER!
CRASH CITY
HAS BEEN
INVADED!

PALOOKAMAN
RETURNS TO SAVE
HIS NATIVE POLAND!

MR. SHAMROCK
IS HERE TO PUT THE
SHAMEs TO YOU!

I THINK IRELAND IS
LOST!

THE CANADIAN ACE
MOVES IN, UP AND ON!

GREEN BOLT
RESCUES HIS
MEXICO CITY!

BEAR MAN
DEMANDS A
FREE RUSH!

CAPTAIN AFRIKA
DECLARES ALL
AFRIKA FREE FROM
THE HITLER ARMY!

OMAHA GARRISON
WILL BE PRETTY
AGAIN!

THE
SQUAREMATELA
GARRISON IS
PROUD TO AN-
NOONCE ITS
SURRENDER!
MASTER-ANCIENT SUPER WARRIORS ARE SWAMPING OUR SOUTH AMERICAN GARRISONS----

IT IS NECESSARY TO SURRENDER...

THE CHINESE AND RUSSIANS ARE REGAINING TERRITORY...

WANT TO HEAR MORE?

NO, YOU WIN. THE GAME IS LOST! MY HOUR OF GLORY HAS COME AND GONE... BUT LET YOUR HISTORY BOOKS SHOW I WAS DEFEATED ONLY AFTER I HAD CONQUERED THIS PLANET AND CRUELLY DISPOSED OF MORE THAN A HALF OF A BILLION PEOPLE!

HMM. YES, WELL, I SUPPOSE HISTORY WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IGNORE YOUR, ER, CONTRIBUTION...

NOW, IT'S FREEDOM TIME FOR THE SUPER GROUPS YOU'VE IMPRISONED! TAKE ME TO THEM!

YES, OF COURSE. THROUGH THE SECOND DOOR...

I STILL HAVE ONE TRICK UP MY HORN IF I CAN GRUNT FAST ENOUGH!!

GRANTICALLY, DESPERATELY, GREENHORN DUMPS OUT THE GOOK FASTER THAN GREEN MARVEL CAN COPE WITH IT!

IMBECILE! STUPIDO!

NOW TO REGROUP MY FORCES AND MOVE THE PARTY ALONG!

HOLY WOE-IS-ME! I FEEL LIKE I'M IN A FROZEN INK BOTTLE!

GREANEUS!

YOW!

THE HOERENE POLICE!
NO! NO!
BE SILENT.
BE STILL.
BETRAYER
OF THE
BEAUTIFUL!

RELAX, EMERALDAN.
WE SHALL HAVE YOU
FREE IN A MINUTE!
YES, AND YOUR
FRIENDS AS
WELL...

SHORTLY

GREANEUS DISPOSED OF THREE
OTHER LIFE-LIVING PLANETS
BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL HERE.
WE HAVE
BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM
SINCE WE
DETECTED HIS ESCAPE FROM THE
VOID. WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN HERE
MUCH SOONER BUT FOR AN EXTENSIVE
DELAY ON A PLANET CALLED EARTH
WHICH, BUT FOR A MUCH WIDER SUN
COLOR SPECTRUM, RESEMBLES YOUR
OWN PLANET GREATLY—ESPECIALLY IN
THE CONTENT OF ITS CONFUSION.

EARTH?
SURE.
I'VE BEEN THERE
MANY TIMES
IN MY
MYSTIC
TRAVELS.
WILD
COLORS!!

HOW
NOW
WILL
GREEN- HORN
BE
PUN- ISHED?

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY REALLY.
IT WAS UNTHINKABLE FOR US.
INHUMANE, YOU MIGHT SAY, BUT
JUSTICE AND SAFETY DEMAND IT!
HE MUST BE DISENGRATIFIED
AND SCRAPPED CLEAN!
WE... WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF ONE
OF YOU WOULD PERFORM THE, ER...

LIKE
SO?
YES, JUST
SCOOP
AWAY
THE PUTTY
LIKE
MATERIAL!

NEVERMORE,
GREANEUS,
WILL YOU
CREATE
ANYTHING
AGAIN--

YOU WILL
BE IN FACT
WHAT YOU
ARE IN
SPIRIT...

THAT'S
IT!

JUST AN
EMPTY
SHELL!

IF WE CAN ASSIST
IN THE REPAIR OF
YOUR PLANET, IT
WOULD GIVE US
GREAT SOLACE.

SAY, GUYS, THERE'S
A PERSON OUTSIDE,
SAYS HE USE TO BE
PRESIDENT OR SOME
THING. SAYS HE'S
READY TO
RESUME LEADERSHIP
TO SAVE THE WORLD!

FINE. WE CAN
USE ALL THE
HELP WE CAN
GET!

OH YEAH?!
WELL, TELL
THAT KNOW
NOTHIN' JERK TO...

WE'VE GOT TO KICK
OFF THE CREATION OF
JUST, DEMOCRATIC,
NON-PROFIT, UNSELFISH,
HUMANITARIAN, WORLD-
COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

HMM... YES... RIGHT... HMM...
AND WE'LL NEED ALL THE
HELP WE CAN GET!!

WAA WAA
WAA

SOP... CRY.

WE'LL RETURN
HIM TO OUR
PLANET WHERE
HE'LL BE
APPROPRIATELY
STUFFED!

THEND FRIEND
Doug Harding  
30 Brent Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K2G 3K8

THE COLLECTOR #28 was overall, a well done issue. "The Legacy of Star Trek" was very interesting and the accompanying illustrations were fantastic. I'd like to see a follow-up article by the Commodores of L.O.V.B. (the Loyal Order of the Vulcan girls), if only to give the answers to the Trekkie Super-Quiz.

Murray Bishoff did an excellent job with his article on the Shadow. My only regret after reading about the Shadow here, and in Steranko's History of Comics, is that low-priced reprints of the pulps are not available.

"Shall We Join The Ladies?" was a bit long and drawn-out, but it was good as a change-of-pace. A look at the sexy side of crime-fighting is a nice change from articles that deal only with the violent side of superheroes.

There were only two things really wrong with issue #28. One is that the cover was off in places, and the other is the fact that you say number 29 will be the last issue of THE COLLECTOR. It's a pity, but all things come to an end...

As number 29 will be the last issue, take your time with it and produce a truly magnificent issue. The world awaits the best ever...

Well, Doug, I only hope that, after reading this issue, you'll see that I followed your suggestions in preparing this issue... Whether or not it is the best ever, well, I'll leave that for the readers and critics to decide. Commodores Miller and Velabaum have returned, complete with all of the Quiz Answers; and hopefully the color registration problems that dogged me last issue will be eliminated in the production of this issue...

Bob Garrison  
15003 East 41st Street  
Independence, Missouri 64055

...You always put out a very fine fanzine, Bill, and I'm looking forward to seeing the latest. The line-up sounds really good, and the cover sounds great. But, then, you usually have fine covers. I hope this won't be your last effort. I realize that you'll probably have to stop putting out THE COLLECTOR sometime, but I'd like to at least see you publish through issue #30, just to even it up...

First off, let me make clear that Bob was ordering TCM28 at the time of his comment and had not seen the issue yet. Unfortunately, Bob, much as I wanted to, I just couldn't fulfill your request to go to #30 because of the items listed in my editorial this issue. But, look at it this way: Maybe that's another excuse for TC to return sometime in the future. I'm not making any promises, and honestly, I seriously doubt any return, but strange things can happen.

-- BON

William M. [MAD] Gaines  
485 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

THE COLLECTOR #28 was beautiful! I enjoyed every page — thanks for sending it!

"Close Shave" was great — definitely in the EC tradition.

Eric L. Hoffman  
15120 Vanoven Street  
Van Nuys, California  
91406

I recently (comparatively) became acquainted with your publication last June at Houston, Texas at the Houstoncon, and managed to come up with issues 24, 25, 27 and now through a shop here in Hollywood, #28. I've enjoyed it immensely and hope one day to find #29...or any other issues for that matter. While not really a comics fan, I'm hooked.

I guess what started me was your issue 24 with its coverage of the '71 New York Comic Convention...particularly a write-up and photos on a friend of mine—Kirk Alyn, the original Superman (at least for live motion pictures—the two serials of 1948 and 1950.) I got Kirk a copy recently and he was delighted with the article by Tom Pagan. He recalled meeting him. If there is any way you can contact him, or enable me to, I'd like to let him know of my appreciation for the write-up he did, in contrast to a rather nasty piece in another fanzine, which seemed to be irked, among other things, that they didn't have any footage of the Superman serial. Anyway, my thanks to you people, for such a nice coverage on the convention and my friend Kirk.

However, to the meat of the matter. In reading issue #28, I perused the article on The Shadow, one of my favorites of the pulp adventure characters. On page 51, a very brief mention was made of The Shadow's film career...albeit inaccurate...as well as incomplete.

The serial, made in 1940, was not by Republic Pictures, but by Columbia, via the serial unit headed by Larry Darmour, a maker of very low-budget productions. Columbia was not exactly noted for its serials, particularly during the very early '40s. Why? Probably because of the scripting, which was sometimes unbelievably...

Clyde Caldwell  
Lowell, North Carolina 28098

I hope TC29 won't be the last issue of TC — It will be sorely missed in fandom if this is the case.

Stephen E. Fabian  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Too bad #29 will be your swan song... Perhaps you'll return —- it's in the blood.
poor, but more likely than not due to the work of the director, a fellow named.....

James W. Horne, whose biggest claim to fame was that he directed several of the films made by Laurel & Hardy. He never seemed to get out of his L&H syndrome—having crooks do very broad take-ons, and sometimes the heroes as well, when the tables were turned, inserting slapstick moments at times, and the like.

The Shadow/Lamont Cranston was played by Victor Jory, a wise choice for the part. Instead of the multiple identities the Shadow utilized with incredible frequency during his pulp days, only one disguise was used, that of Lin Chang, a sinister Chinese who was purported to augment his Chinatown merchant business with other, sinister activities. Veda Ann Borg was Margie Lane, while the Shadow's sidekicks were pretty well eliminated and compressed into one man, Cranston's chauffeur, Vincent (probably the Harry Vincent of the stories). It ran 15 chapters. Having seen one episode, one feels that Republic probably would have done a much better job.

Prior to that, in the late '30s, an independent producer came out with "The Shadow Strikes" starring former silent-film idol Rod LaRoque as Lamont Cranston/Shadow. In the '40s, Monogram came out with three features starring Kane Richmond (Spy Smasher, Brick Bradford) as Lamont Cranston. Cranston was simply a play- boy type, his Shadow identity changed, from the cloaked crimefighter to that of a mystery-type in black overcoat, slouch hat, face-mask similar to that of Republic's Masked Marvel and black gloves. His relationship as friend to Police Com. Weston was changed to having Cranston become his nephew. Margo Lane was still around, and Cranston's third side was Shreveley, the taxi driver.

The three films—"Behind The Mask", "The Shadow Returns" and "The Missing Lady"—are hardly seen anymore, and in some areas are sought by Shadow buffs, many of whom consider them enjoyable interpretations (albeit also inaccurate) of the pulp hero. There were rumors of a Shadow pilot being produced when the "Batman" craze kicked off a run on comic strip/pulp heroes, but nothing happened.

Hope this little bit of data will help add to the record...

Thanks for setting us straight on the adaptations of The Shadow, Eric. I was unaware of the films you mentioned (except for the one Murray talked about). Until I saw a recent "IT" Movie Showcase on the 42" boob tube which featured a '30s movie entitled, "International Crime." Technically, I guess you could call it a Shadow picture, since it starred Rod LaRoque as (more-or-less) The Shadow. However, from what I saw, the Shadow was nothing more than a mysterious daily newspaper columnist who wrote a "gossip" column dealing with crime. Cranston was the writer, working out of the newspaper office; Phoebe (not Margo) Lane was his young, inexperienced reporter sidekick, and Shreveley was the trusty taxi driver who always seemed to be right there when Cranston and/or Phoebe needed a ride. From what I saw, Cranston never changed into any Shadow garb, but Phoebe, I couldn't even tell much more than forty-five minutes of it......if that much! It was just too far afield from what I've come to know as The Shadow—DON'T hooked on comics, since there was plenty of time with nothing to do that was soaked up by reading every comic in existence which were all readily available.

If I would like to get some work published in the undergrounds, but I haven't had any luck yet, so I am looking for any chance to do any kind of work in fanzines, magazines, children's books, etc. I have difficulty in writing full-length stories so I usually prefer and enjoy doing cartoons [as seen here and on subsequent pages], splash pages, spot illos, logos, covers, illustrations, pin-ups, etc. more than full-length stories. I am now thinking of trying a sky-jacking story next.

I also read a '67 RSA 441.....Anyone interested in contacting O.B. about art, write to: CLIFFORD NEAL 92 Noah Ledge Road Mystic, Connecticut 06355

James Cassara 6285 N.W. 111 Terrace Hialeah, Florida 33012

After reading the third issue of THE COLLECTOR I've received, I thought I'd write and tell you how I felt this issue compared to the two others. Frankly, Bill, it was a bust. Despite being quite thick, and containing many color pieces, issue number 28 just can't hold a candle to the other recent efforts.

With the exception of the cover (it was dynamite), and 3 or 4 other drawings, the artwork generally was pretty mundane. Honestly, Bill, I believe you're making the same mistakes many other fanzine editors make. That is, assuming that artwork in color will immediately be attractive.....Not so. No color, no matter how plentiful or brilliant, will make a mediocre piece of artwork stand out. Take a look at pages 18, 19, and the centerspread. Although the color is there, the artwork just doesn't...
Another complaint is your policy of printing an already-printed piece of art. (such as pages 52, 34, and again, the center-spread.) Also, why print a piece twice in the same issue? The Don Newton Shadow drawing wasn't that stunning anyway, and certainly didn't warrant double exposure.

Article-wise, I did very much enjoy the article on female superheroines, as well as the very nice Shadow article. However, the Star Trek article was weakly constructed and just not that interesting. Perhaps the poorest feature of the entire issue was your sloppy attempt at picto-fiction (pages 4-7). Also, the Golden Age Reviewer seems to me to be totally useless. Anyone wishing to invest money in Golden Age comics pretty much has an idea of what to look for, so why not have Mr. Moreno's rather obvious talent put to use elsewhere? However, if readers' reactions warrant the continuation of such boredom, please try to review the less-expensive ones, since the classics cost so much damn

Okay Bill, I've had my say... You're more than welcome to take me up on any of these points you disagree with. You've produced some excellent issues in the past (such as issue 26): just be careful not to let the grind of putting out THE COLLECTOR allow you to let bummery like issue 28 to slip by. Even if it means publishing less often.

P.S. I will continue to buy and support THE COLLECTOR!

Okay, Jim, now I'll have my say; I'll try to cover everything you've said in the order in which you covered it... But first, I want to thank you for your criticism. I appreciate any such letters and read them with an open mind, and I don't mind criticism unless it gets down right nasty, which your's did not. Above all else, it helps me to learn from my mistakes and generally prevents me from getting a swollen head... Surprisingly, I too was greatly disappointed with #28 for a number of reasons, some of which you've mentioned, though I view them all in a different context. I'm sure that, had you seen the color art redone as it should have been, you'd have felt differently about the illustrations inside and on both covers. The finished products look absolutely nothing like their respective color suggestions, provided by all of the artists in question, and this is due to poor overlay and color registration work on the part of your's truly. One reason I decided to print Newton's Shadow on the inside was to show what the illustration actually looked like, since it wasn't originally intended for color repro. Which brings me to your next point: reprinting of some illustrations. Page 52 was a letter column about issue #27, two illustrations from which were reproduced with some letters re: that issue. Page 54 was photographed from the original art from my collection, purchased from Gil Kane at the '73 New York Con. Unfortunately, he didn't inform G.B. Love and I that we had purchased similar illustrations. Compare them very closely... they're not the same! Finally, since the center-spread had not seen the light of day since 1968, and fit in nicely with the superheroine article, and I was confident of reproducing it faithfully in color (which I didn't), it "made" it. Al-

Adonis A. DeLove, Sr.
4826 So. Greenwood
Chicago, Illinois 60615

I received your letter with the money order that I sent you last July. I didn't receive the form letter you sent on July 25, 1973 and I had written the whole thing off as a loss.

What I'm really trying to say is that it is really refreshing to know that there is someone left in this world who is honest; it really blew my mind when I took a look at the date on that money order, and read the letter you had written. All I can say is Thank You.
Now, the other reason for writing is this: I read in issue #28 that all back issues, #1-27, are sold out, and it destroy- ed my day. What I'm asking is, if there is any way I might buy some of those back issues, or do you know of anyone who might have them for sale, please let me know...

Again, I wish to thank you...

First, an explanation to the reader: I make a practice of cashing no check or money order, or using any currency sent to me until after an order has been filled. We'll, Mr. Delove's order for TC #27 (the hottest selling issue of TC ever), in addition to a number of others, arrived after TC #27 was already sold-out, and I sent him one of the form-letters informing him of the unavailability of the issue. As was the case with numerous others, I received no reply; subsequently, his order was mis-placed with several others and was not re-discovered until just recently. All orders were returned (either cash, check or money orders, since none had been cashed or used due to my policy) with a new form letter stating the full case and a suggestion for future orders. This is just one of many such cases. When I read of all the cheating in fandom, and the efforts to halt all such abuse, I felt the absolute best thing to do was to offer subscribers the fastest service possible, along with writing immediately to any people whose orders became misplaced, misplaced, unintelligible, incorrect, etc. I thought, well, fandom and its fans have treated me good, so why not return the favor? If anyone out there has any back issues of TC for sale, please contact Mr. Delove...

I am aware of several zine dealers who stock TC and may have some back issues [But Plant, Gordon Bailey's Fandom (Newstand, NBCC Fanzine Shop, etc.), but there's no way for me to accurately predict what issues, if any, they will have for sale by the time you read this. - BMG

Rene Rendon
P.O. Box 961
Robstown, Texas 78380

I was reading the review of your issue #28 in Inside Comics, and since I was one of those fortunate souls to buy #26 & #27, I am enclosing $1.25 for #28.

Bill, your fanzine is one of the best I've seen, and believe me, I've seen many in the past 12 months...

Thanks for your testimonial, Rene. I only hope you enjoyed TC #28, and thoroughly enjoyed this last issue of mine.

Joe Sinnott
Marvel Artist & Inker

This certainly isn't the piece of art I had hoped to do for your last issue but perhaps it might go well toward the end of the magazine.

I'm sure it expresses the feelings of your friends as well as yourself.

Hope your last issue is a big success — its ending will be a big loss to the fandom world.

Keep in touch, Bill, and many thanks.

William MacIntosh, Jr.
711 15th Avenue
Prospect Park, Pa. 19076

A follow-up article on Star Trek? Definitely! Although most of the article's contents were covered in The Making Of Star Trek by Stephen E. Whitfield & Gene Roddenberry, I really dug the illustrations by John L. Byrne and Jim Pinkowski. I would give my right arm (hint) for John to include a Klingon battle cruiser in the possible follow-up illustrations. I would also greatly appreciate a battle scene. I have one question, however — why in all of the Byrne illustrations were the vessels moving away from the onlooker and never towards him?

Although I began reading and collecting comics seriously only two years ago, and most of the subjects covered in your fanzine were new to me, I really enjoyed The Collector #28. I was particularly fond of the article "Shadow of the Agas", by Murray Bishoff, and the accompanying illustrations.

My only complaint lies with the article "Occupational Hazards". I think it would be fair to say that a large percentage of your readers also read MAD Magazine and if so have seen these types of articles before. In theory this type of article should be funny, but in print, I have never seen one that was. I can only hope that no more space will be wasted in a continuation of this article in the next issue.

In closing, I would like to say that I am extremely saddened by the fact that The Collector will end just one issue after I bought my first. All good things must come to an end, but why so soon?

Well, you got your wish for both a follow-up STAR TREK article and a battle scene, though I can't explain why it took the Enterprise from the back. Anyway, I'd like to thank you for your comments. The MAD flair to "Occupational Hazards" was probably due to my handling of its layout, but if you can see the connection you made. This issue, Mr. Reynolds has contributed two serious examinations of the many facets of Captain Marvel, rather than another humorous piece. As far as TC coming to an end, I'm
afraid I’ll have to refer you to my editorial for the whole story. Finally, let me say this: It may seem “so soon” to you but after seven years and twenty-nine issues of The Collector, I think I’ve had just about ENOUGH for awhile! -- BON

"THE POOR DELUDED JERK SEEMS TO THINK HE’S ON THE VERGE OF A GREAT DISCOVERY!"

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM YE OLDE ED.: I just thought I’d take some space to say a few things I may have forgotten to say elsewhere in the letter column.

First off, my apologies to all those readers who clamored for years for a much lengthier letter column, only to finally get their wish in this, my last issue.

Secondly, a few more comments on the last issue, TO428: As you might gather, from some of my other comments, I was not particularly thrilled with #28, largely to be blamed on my own printing mistakes; as I believe there were some excellent features there, I just handled them wrong, and hopefully I am making amends with this issue. The "EC Tribute" idea was Ken’s. He intended the illustration to be a tribute, not the entire issue as some readers misunderstood. The "Close Shave" feature was resurrected because I felt it fit in with the EC tone set by Ken’s cover, and I redid the layout because I wasn’t overly impressed with Don’s handling of the story in straight comic-strip form. I didn’t at-

THE BIG 3

PENCILS... RC HARVEY
INKS... SIM SENA
A PANEOLOGICAL MESSAGE FROM

howard P. Siegel

95 Sedgwick Avenue
Yonkers, N.Y. 10705
914-963-9581

February 23, 1974

Dear Bill:

When we worked together on your PANDOM PROFILE for my column in RB-CC, you intimated that increased personal responsibilities might someday cause you to cease publication of 'The Collector'. With this issue of TC, that time has come, and for me it is a sad, although predicted event. We both go far enough back into fandom's history to remember the days when a flood of crudazines swamped the marketplace. Yet, for those of us with discriminating taste there was always TC. From its very inception you used the very best talent and settled for nothing less than quality in your endeavors. When availability and experience in printing equipment and techniques became tools of your editorialship, the physical appearance of TC became more professional. You had, and have few peers of such polished effort.

I can only say thanks for the pleasure you gave me personally, and hope that the future will be as successful for Bill G. Wilson as he made 'The Collector'.

Bestest

[Signature]

tempt picto-fiction, though it might have looked that way, because I've never seen any EC picto-fiction stories to have based my ideas on. As for the other features, I think my previous comments, and the features themselves, say it all.

Finally, some people used to criticize me for not "saying" more in the pages of TC. I didn't because I was usually too tired to say anything comes editorial time, but now that I have spoken out in this issue, all of you who requested more commentary on my part may be second-guessing by now. Ah well...you can't please all of the readers all of the time! An additional comment here to all you ambitious letter-writers out there: Don't hesitate in writing with your views on this issue just because you won't be see -ing another one...now, more so than ever before, I want your views on this issue! Or else how can you persuade me to bring TC back in the distant future?

Had enough rambling? OK, I'll shut up for awhile, and let you enjoy the other features in this issue. Personally, I think this is the greatest 'zine ever, but, then again, I have been known to be biased about certain things!

—Bill G. Wilson—
Au revoir, but not good-bye...