What's this? A new MANTRA? Well, not quite -- but you're not far off.

You see, a long, long time ago in a fandom far, far away -- before MANTRA, there was OM. Although OM was not the first fanzine I ever published, it was the first to have any real distribution among the mainstream of fandom. OM #1 came out in 1972 and was the last of the true "BPP" fanzines (before Blue Plaque Publications bit the bullet, only to be revived sometime thereafter as the UFO, or United Fanzine Organization). It was a dittoed production, all comics, and lasted for three issues before MANTRA came along to take its place as the flagship zine for Happy Face Publications.

Well, all that's interesting, but why this revival after all these years? Besides the fact that OM was strictly comics, the other main thing that made it different from MANTRA was that it contained a number of continued serial-type strips. There was "Manhunt", about the war between East and West America in the not too distant future. "The Evil of Dracula" presented the adventures of the notorious vampire in the modern world (this strip, by the way, was conceived well before Marvel's TOMB OF DRACULA comic). And a whole kaboodle of super-heroes cavorted in those purple pages... Nightman, the Raven, the Titan, Sunwing.

When OM vanished into limbo-land, three of the strips were left cliff-hung. Sunwing was unconscious, trapped the lair of the High Commandeer. Raymond Sterling, teleport-ed from 1972 to the year 2000 by a freak accident, was preparing to lead East American troops in an all-out assault on the mountain fortress of West America in "Manhunt". And a modern-day Van Helsing had just entered the picture in "The Evil of Dracula".

The fact that these strips were left incomplete has been gnawing at me for years. I wanted to know how the stories ended as much as the frustrated readership did. So, even though few fans are still around who can remember those epics, OM is returning from the grave. Never let it be said that I leave anything half done.
I think that the stories scheduled for this 3-issue excursion (yes, friends, this is a limited series) stand up well as stories within themselves as well as chapters of series. I hope that readers will enjoy these tales even if they never saw the previous episodes. Old readers may appreciate the switch to offset printing (remember last issue and ...oh, okay, Jim. I won't mention it.). And I hope that the various other new strips featuring both new and old characters from Fandom Past also thrill and entertain you.

With OM #5 and #6, Jim Main (of Flying Pig Publications) will be joining us as co-editor of this effort. One or two of you out there may recall that Jim was at one time going to carry this title on as the new editor/publisher, but things didn't work out. He'll be bringing along his characters, the Acrobat and the Simian (who bear an uncanny resemblance to "Grim" Jim and Amazing Mike Tuz) in the conclusion of a tale likewise left hanging way back in *PPFSZT!* #7 --in 1974.

Also, next issue will have a letter column. I'm quite eager to read the thoughts of present day fandom regarding this effort. Did you love it? Hate it? Would you like to see the zine continue after the 3-issue tryout? Do you have an inquiring mind? We wanna know.

So. It's Old Home Week at Happy Face Publications. OM #4 has been a long time comin'. Kick off your shoes, grab a beer, sit back and prepare for a genuine Blast From The Past.

Best,

SKEETER

Steve Keeter

************************************************
ART CREDITS FOR OM #4: Front cover:
Larry Blake/ Page 2: Mike Tuz/ Page 3:
Jeff Wood, Dave Gifford, Skeeter/ "High
School Girls": Larry Blake/ "Evil of
Dracula": Skeeter/ "Lost": Larry Hibert/
"Man-tonn": Larry Blake/ "Chess-toons":
Steven Mark Shiplay/ Inside backcover:
Ronn Sutton/ Backcover: Troy Beavers.
************************************************

I gotta say something here.
What the hell am I doing with all this empty space? Was it poor planning on my part?
Am I losing my touch? And what can I do to fill it?
How could this possibly have happened? I think a positive effort MUST be made to see that this happens never again!
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WITH THEIR WINNING WAYS KNOW HOW TO PUT A SMILE ON MY AGING FACE.

TALENT HUNT EYES WATCH 'EM STROLLING BY, WHEN I SMILE AT 'EM YOU BET THEY KNOW WHY.

BLUE EYED GIRLS WITH THEIR HAIR DOWN TO THERE ALL SMILE RIGHT BACK WHEN I START TO STARE.

GET YOUR JAIL-BAIT DONT BE LATE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ON A WEEKEND DATE.

CANT IGNORE 'EM I WONT EVEN TRY, WHEN I SMILE AT 'EM YOU BET THEY KNOW WHY.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TAKE MY CARES ALL AWAY, KNOW HOW TO FILL A NIGHT AND BRIGHTEN MY DAY.

CANT LIVE WITHOUT 'EM I DONT KNOW WHY, WHEN I SMILE AT 'EM YOU BET THEY KNOW WHY.

GET YOUR JAIL-BAIT DONT BE LATE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ON A WEEKEND DATE.

BLUE EYED GIRLS SAY YOU BETTER BEWARE I CANT EVEN PROMISE I'LL PLAY FAIR, I'VE SET MY SIGHTS I'M READY TO FLY, WHEN I SMILE AT 'EM YOU BET THEY KNOW WHY.

Highschool Girls

BY BUNE 79 ©
His entire body... drained of blood...

The villagers are really uptight about these murders... claim they grow their silly superstitions, do they?

Let's get the body on the wagon...

I have to see that body!

Hey! You can't look at that body without authorization! Who are you, anyway?

My god! It's just as I feared!
I AM CALLED... VAN HELSING.

the EVIL of DRACULA!
CONCLUSION

VAN HELSING? THEN YOU MUST BE RELATED TO THE GUY THEY SAY HUNTED DOWN DRACULA A CENTURY AGO.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, OFFICER...

I AM THAT MAN!

NIGHT. AND IN TRANSYLVANIA THE VILLAGERS SLEEP UNEASILY--THEIR THOUGHTS NEVER FAR FROM THE NIGHTMARE THAT RESTS CRUMBLING ATOP A BARREN HILLTOP NEARBY...
IT IS TIME, MASTER.

THINK OF IT, IVANI! TO LIVE FOREVER... TO BE ETERNALLY YOUNG... AS YOU STALK THE NIGHT WITH YOUR BROTHERS, THE WOLF AND THE BAT!

YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL, IVAN. WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, YOU SHALL BE SUITABLY REWARDED...

WITH THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE!

BROTHER, THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GONNA STALK IS THE FLOOR OF A PADDED CELL!

WHO?!!

SEE? I TOLDJA IF WE FOLLOWED OLD CRAZY IVAN, WE'D GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

OKAY, PAL... CRAZY OR NOT, YOU'RE COMIN' IN FOR QUESTIONING!
YOU FOOLS! YOU DARE INVADE MY DOMAIN! YOU HAVE FORFEITED YOUR OWN WORTHLESS LIVES!

LOOK, FRIEND. YOU'RE AS NUTTY AS THAT VAN HELSING GUY WE RAN ACROSS LAST NIGHT. PROVIDED DRACULA EVER EXISTED AT ALL, HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR OVER A CENTURY.

NOW, WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG PEACEFULLY?

MY GOD! OUR BULLETS AREN'T HARMING HIM!

DRACULA OBEYS NO MAN!

KAPOW! KAPOW!
You pitiful cretins... your toys are of no use against the Lord of the Undead!

There are alternatives to guns, evil one!

It's that Van Helsing guy!

I know not who you are, but it will take more than that cross to defeat Dracula!

Perhaps so...

...and I think this wooden stake will do nicely!

This is getting nuttier by the minute.

No!

No!!
MASTER...

IVAN?! YOU DARE TO BETRAY ME?

FOR THIS YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY!

MOTHER OF MERCY...

...BUT LET US NOT NEGLECT OUR OTHER GUESTS...

I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE! TURN, SLAVE!
TURN... AND FACE DEATH!
I-- I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!

EASY... EASY... WHILE HE'S STILL CONCENTRATING ON BLAKE...

GOT IT!

AHARGH!
NO ONE... NO ONE WILL BELIEVE WHAT WE HAVE SEEN...

IVAN... YEAH, THAT OLD BUM REALLY GOT MIXED UP IN IT THIS TIME.

OLD BUM, MAYBE. BUT, IN THE END, HE WAS A BIT OF A HERO. I GUESS THE ONLY WAY FOR HIM TO BREAK DRAC’S GRIP ON HIM WAS TO BECOME ANOTHER PERSON... REAL SCHIZOID TYPE...

WELL, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
Hi! I'm Larry Blake. If you like the stuff I did here in *Mantra*, you should try my comic book *Afterworld*. All my friends here plus androids, Jimmy Carter, gun-toting Teddy Bears and the Who! All this and the adventures of my female super hero... Nightshade*! Try it... you'll like it!

Okay, I'll check out Afterworld. Here is my $1.50 each.*

SEND TO: Name ____________________________
Street ____________________________

City ____________________________
State ____________________________

* PLEASE SEND ME... Zip _______________

☐ NO. 6
☐ NO. 7
☐ BOTH

ORDER FROM: L. Blake
RT. 1 REEDSVILLE, OH. 45772
UFO CHECKLIST

The United Fanzine Organization (UFO) is a group of fanzine editors who mutually aid each other in the production and promotion of their fanzines, and the promotion of higher standards of quality in the fan press. Fan eds interested in applying for membership should contact the group's chairman (presently Jim Main) at his address below.

DITKOMANIA #11: A special Creeper issue, with the lead article "A Look at the Creeper" by Jim Main and Bill Hall. Mike Tuz reviews HULK #6 in his article "The Metal Master". Strips include "The Comic Snob (Adrift in the Ditkoverse)", and the "Prologue to Crisis on Earth Ditko". Art throughout by Don Martinec, Francis Mac, Brian Waters, Chuck Patton, Mike DeCarlo, Rudi Franke, Ken Hahn, and Roger Stuart. $1.25 from Bill Hall/10 Farm Hill Rd./Middletown, CT. 06457.

MANTRA #6: Hey, this one's mine! The first new issue of MANTRA in three years features Larry Blake's acclaimed super-heroine Nightshade in an all-new adventure called "Skirmish". Also returning from fannish limbo-land is the Beacon in a satirical tale, "Day the Beacon Gave Up" by Skeeter and Blake. Also included are two short ditties: "Cut" by Mark Prockey and the Skeet, and "Invasion of the Bubbleheads" by the Blake. Neil Kvern contributes an article entitled "Philip K. Dick: A SCANNER DARKLY". Rounding out the issue is a lettercol and numerous illos by such talents as Ken Hahn, Rod Snyder, Lee Jackson, Steve Shipley, Mike Tuz, and Bruce Reynolds. All for a buck and a quarter from Steve Keeter/1003 E. Amelia St./Orlando, Fla./32803.

PLASMA #4: With this issue, Jeff Wood assumes the publisher's mantle for Kirk Chritton's all-comics zine. There are three strips this time around: "Scuz", an experiment in new wave from Kent Featherly, "Footsteps", a creepy child's fable by Tracy Schell, Roger Langbecker, and David Transue, and another installment of Jeff's own "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" featuring his exciting SnoBuni. A frontcover by Mark Runyan graces this issue, available for $1.25 from Jeff Wood/ c/o Pseudo Comics/6056 Wellesley Way N.E./Seattle, WA/98115.

*PPFSZT!* #12: This one has a strip by me in it, but it's a great issue regardless. Sad ...said strip (Hmmm. Maybe I was right the first time...) is "I Met the Thing That Typed", which lampoons "Grim" Jim Main (the editor), Bill Hall, and fandom in general. Also in this issue are two articles -- "Fever Dream" by Joseph M. Shea, and "The Amazing Extraterrestrial Origin of Headcheese" by Tim Corrigan (who also submits accompanying illustrations). There's a cosmic centerspread by Carl Taylor and covers by Larry Hibert, Francis Mac, Tim Corrigan, and the great Steve Shipley-whose first new fanwork in over a decade is presented, along with the likewise long-awaited return of artist Larry Johnson. Illos scattered throughout the zine also include work by M.O., Mike Tuz, Skeeter, Don Martinec, and Jeff Wood. $1.25 from Jim Main/125 Fort Hill St. #3/New Milford, Conn. 06776.

TETROGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS! This is the UFO Newsletter and features letters and artwork from the members of the group. These luminaries currently include Will Bynum, Sam Gafford, Bill Hall, Jim Main, Francis Mac, Don Martinec, Ross Riahalah, Gene Kehoe, Jeff Wood, Larry Blake, Wade Busby, and little old me. Although it mostly deals with the business of the group, TF often contains some fascinating matter that even non-member fans can enjoy. 75¢ per issue or 6-issue sub for $4.00 from Jim Main, whose address is above and I'm not about to retypew it even though this sentence is dragging on longer than his address would. So there.

PERIHELION #2: From Jeff Wood's Pseudo Comics comes this variety-ridden issue. Geoffrey Hayes contributes "Ad Astra per Aspera", a solo adventure strip featuring Geralderson
UFO CHECKLIST continued...

of CH223. This character also appears in a whimsical shorter strip called "Charades" elsewhere in the issue...and on the Francis Mao frontcover. From the pen of Allen Freeman comes "Zippy Stardust in: 'A Day In The Life of a Space Hero'". There's an article: "The Vaughn Bode Story" by Bill Fitzs, a lettercol, and sketches and artwork from Brian Pearce, Bill Fitzs, Sean Leary, Jeff Wood, Allen Freeman, Matt Taylor, Dave Shem, Doug Holverson, Joshua Quagnire, Alan Nadolski, Geoffrey Hayes, Steve Gallacci, Matt Cash, and Francis Mao. Whew. All for $1.25 from Jeff Wood and I'm not going to repeat this address either, as it's listed with PLASMA.

IT'S A Fanzine #30: The special 5th anniversary issue of one of the most popular fanzines around, this 48-page zine is loaded with articles, including "An American in Japan" by Dan Wren, "Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend" by Ken King (which laments the passing of the Flash and is accompanied by John Wells' Flash Checklist), Greg Robertson's "Spotlight", "The Jim Aparo Nobody Knows" by Jim Main, "Chris Claremont Vs. Aristotle" by Dennis McDonough, an examination of TALCS OF THE BEANWORLD by T.M. Maple, "Critter Chatter" by Gary Cooper (discussing ANIMAL COMICS), "the Teenage Creations of Steve Gerber" by John G. Pierce, and commentary by Dennis McDonough. In addition, there are reviews of current comics by McDonough and editor Gene Kehoe, perusals of Golden Age comics by John G. Pearce, L. Stewart, Greg Robertson, Dan Wren, and Gene Kehoe. Other contributors include Kent Bingham, Rick Brooks, Dave Cunningham, Dave Garcia, Fred Gorham, Ken King, Keith Marlor, Jeff Nicholson, Gil O'Gara, John Pierce, Craig Smith, and Charles Todd. A massive effort available for $1.50 from Gene Kehoe/ 6223 Forest Ave./ Des Moines, Iowa/ 50311.

*******************************************************************************

YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS ISSUE BECAUSE:

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___You need something to tie under your armpits to stop perspiration.

******************************************************************************

If the space at the left is checked, then this is your last issue unless you subscribe. I'd love to continue sending out huge quantities of freebies, but, with printing costs soaring, I'm unable to. There are a lot of interesting projects coming soon from Happy Face Publications, so why take a chance on missing out? At $3.00 for 3 issues, how can you lose?

___If the space at the left is checked, then you have bad breath and b.o. and I don't have the guts to tell you in person.

******************************************************************************

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 Damn it! Lost again!

Great, bored...

And lost.

Well... at least the stars are nice.

Bored and lost. Well, I guess...

It could be worse!
DOCTOR KILLCASEY in
by Steve Shipley

THIS BILL IS
ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGIOUS
DOCTOR KILLCASEY!!
I REFUSE TO PAY IT!

LOOK, MR. EDWARDS-
I WENT THRU TEN
YEARS OF SCHOOLING
TO LEARN MY SPECIAL
SKILLS TO PERFORM
THE SURGERY
I JUST
DID
ON YOU!

BUT---
I WASN'T BORN
WITH THIS
EXTENSIVE
KNOWLEDGE---
I WORKED HARD
FOR IT!

I STILL SAY THAT FIVE
HUNDRED DOLLARS IS
TOO MUCH
FOR
REMOVING A SPLINTER!
MR. EDWARDS --- IT'S TIME FOR YOUR SHOT!

COME NOW--MR. EDWARDS--BE A MAN ABOUT IT!
NO WAY, BABY!

THIS'LL GET HIM!

UH-OH!

GRRRRRR!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

MAUDE--GET ME THE SCISSORS!

GHACK!

-END 2
SHUNNED BY HIS OWN TRIBE
MAN-TONN JOURNEYS THROUGHOUT
A SAVAGE WORLD IN HIS QUEST FOR
ACCEPTANCE... A QUEST WHICH, HE
FINDS, IS DOOMED TO FAILURE... FOR,
ON THE EARTH OF ONE MILLION YEARS
AGO, THE NEANDERTHALS RULE...

WHEREAS MAN-TONN IS
DIFFERENT. HE IS A MUTANT,
THE FIRST HUMAN BEING...

THE SAVAGE
MEETS "THE ALIEN"

Script by Steve Keeter
Art by Larry Blake
YOU... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HURT ME, ARE YOU?

YOU WANT... TO BE FRIENDS?

SHIP'S WRECKED... RADIO DESTROYED... I HAVE MY WEAPONS, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WILL BE ENOUGH ON THIS SAVAGE PLANET...

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TRUST YOU.

STRANGE... You DON'T LOOK LIKE THE OTHER NEANDERTHAL BEINGS I'VE ENCOUNTERED...

"... BUT THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO DISCUSS SUCH THINGS..."

...IN THE FUTURE!

END
THEY SURE DON'T MAKE GAMES LIKE THEY USED TO!

I HATE IT WHEN THEY PLAY BY MAIL!

WHERE'S THE LITTLE WOMAN WHEN I NEED HER?

I JUST OPENED A NEW STORE... I CALL IT A PAWN SHOP!

CHESS TOON!
by Steven Mark Shipley 1983

IF YOU'D LAY OFF THE SAUCE, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO WALK A STRAIGHT LINE!