SKEET BLEETS

What? What's going on here? What's this?

Well, since you asked (you did ask, didn't you?), this is the first issue of SKEET'S FAN FORUM-- a combination personalzine/letter-and-discussion zine. It's based on a concept I was playing around with for awhile in the mid-'70s, when I published three installments of a fanzine called LOC (standing for Letters Of Comment) or TRUZ FHAN PHORUM. The zine appeared as a zine-within-a-zine inside the pages of MANTRA #2 and TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS #8 (THE UFC NEWSLETTER) #38 (Vol. 3, #10); and as a publication all by itself in 1974. A fourth installment, with letters over a decade old, finally appeared in the pages of DYNAMITE #10 in 1987.

The concept behind SKEET'S FAN FORUM is a simple one: This zine serves as a forum for comics, sf, and fantasy fans to get together and discuss their attitudes, opinions, and ideas concerning any aspects of their favorite hobbies they might feel like rambling on about. In other words, you send me a letter, talking about whatever fannish subject you'd like, and I'll print it. After I publish the initial letters received, in SFF #2, subsequent letters may deal with the topics already introduced, or they may present new topics...
for discussion. SPF is your fanzine and you dictate the flow of the discussion.

Aaaaaannndddd, every letterwriter receives a free copy of the issue in which his/her
tirade appears. There's nothing to lose by writing, and a free fanzine to gain!

Of course, future issues will be somewhat larger than this one, as might be imagined
from all the zillions of missives expected-- but I'll try to hold those down at 50¢ per
copy for as long as possible (that is, for those of you who'd rather read the commentary
than participate in it). The potential for a really meaty, absorbing and even contro-
versial product is limitless, as was proven by the scores of enthusiastic fan letters
that came this way during those letterzine days of Fandom Past. But, this time, with a
regular schedule, and a fanzine that's more organized and larger than ever before, I'm
anticipating an even greater response.

So, don't let me down, people. Drop me a line and let's hear what you have to say
about comics or fandom or movies or whatever you'd like to examine. You want to discuss
censorship? Sure, let's go at it. Is there a particular fanzine or editor or fandom
group you'd like to praise or defame? Let's hear about it! The subjects that are avail-
able in a fannish universe are as diverse and interesting as the fans themselves.

I'll be acting as sort of a mediator for all this business, occasionally interjecting
my own comments and subtly directing the flow of the debate. I'll be encouraging honest
and open dialogue, but discouraging feuding.

If you'd like to be a part of the second issue of this title, drop me a line before
July 20th, 1988. I'll be looking forward to your letters!

PLUG TIME

As this is the first issue, and I have yet to receive any juicy commentary from
Fandom At Large, I'll just ramble on a bit, plug a few of my fave zines, and slander some
good people.

I've been receiving this extraordinary news and reviewszine called FACTSHEET FIVE
for about a year now, from Mike Guderley, a gifted reviewer who must spend as much time reading
fanzines as he does breathing. I mean, this mag (8½"x11" newsprint) is loaded with
literally hundreds of entertaining and informative critiques of a bottomless well of
fanzines from a number of different fandoms: rock and other musical fandoms, sf, comics,
various subversive and political fandoms, cassette and computer fandoms, and on and on.
Each issue is an enjoyable read and you can spend hours perusing its fascinating contents.
It's $2.00 an issue, but you can probably get a freebie by sending your own publication
in for review. Order from: Mike Guderley/6 Arizona Ave./Rensselaer, NY 12144.

TIM CORRIGAN'S COMICS AND STUFF #1 comes from, you guessed it, the inimitable Tim
Corrigan and contains... surprises!... no comics. What it does have is an excellent short
fantasy story by Faye Perzich, which deals with the return to Earth of the kind of fire-
breathing dragons that inhabit our literature and which, this tale asserts, perhaps once
dominated our planet. It also contains a wonderful article by the editor, in which he
discusses the crude homemade comics he produced (like so many of us) as a kid, prior to
his discovery of fandom. Finally, it contains six pages of letters, written by well-
wishing fans in response to Tim's necessary cancellation of SMALL PRESS COMICS EXPLOSION.
These letters prove that, in spite of what Kevin Collier and a handful of mean-spirited
and unappreciative fans may have said recently, the great majority of fandom still respects
Tim Corrigan and realizes the debt of gratitude we owe him for supporting, expanding, and
holding together the vast network of small press for two years with SPCB. You can do a
little to pay him back for that support by sending $1.00 ppd. to Tim at 45 Wilcox St./
Rochester, NY 14607 and ordering his COMICS AND STUFF.

David Gushman publishes an interesting conglomeration of reviews, interviews, letters,
and art called VISIONS. #3 features an interview with Ian Shires and some genuinely
thought-provoking letters and editorializing. There's some good debate here, especially
as regards the merits or non-merits of super-hero comics. This is one good deal at only
50¢ ppd. from David Gushman/One Man Publishing/12 Stoughton Rd./East Windsor, CT
06085.

THE COMIC BOOK NEWSLETTER continues under the expert production of editor Jim Pack.
If you haven't been ordering this title, shame on you! It's a beautiful zine, and the
most appealing of all the crop of fannish news and reviewszines that have popped up since
the demise of SPCB (In point of fact, Jim's NEWSLETTER was around before SPCB, so I
screwed up that last sentence... but this is my fanzine and if I want to screw up, use
bad syntax, print inaccuracies, etc. I can do it!).

Uh... huh? Kinda went off on a tangent there a little. But, this is my fanzine and
if I want to go off on a tangent, etc. etc. etc.

* Okay, okay, so I said it was your fanzine before. Well, it's mine, too!
Anyway, order TH3 COMIC BOOK NEWSLETTER from Jim
Pack/ Rocket Comics/ 1112 Bellwood Dr./ Loveland, OH/
45140. It's $1.00 per issue and well worth it.

DUNGAR THE BARBARIAN #23 is now available from
Ian Shires and Dimestore Stories Productions/ 1791 N
N. Inlet Drive/ Strongsville, OH 44136 for a mere
60¢ plus a stamp. I haven't been following this much-
touted series in the past, but I hear that earlier
issues were very well written and very badly drawn.
Well, this issue is very well written and very well
drawn. DUNGAR is a mini and the original art was
done actual size, which is a liability, but illustrator
Carl Geier does a commendable job of overcoming
the limitations of the format presented to him. The
inks remind me a lot of Klaus Jannson, and that's a
compliment. There's humor, adventure, and an intri-
guing plotline as well. Nifty little comic.

The best thing about Steve Shipley's MORNINGSTAR
COMICS #2 is the stunning air-brushed Allen Freeman
frontcover. The worst thing is the interior copy job
which fails to delete all those ugly paste-up lines.
Very, very unusual for a Shipley publication to
appear so hastily assembled-- I suspect this was Steve's
experiment at trying a less expensive mode of repro-
duction. Go back to offset, Steve! There are two
strips in this, "The Revenge of Dynamite" by Shipley and Sketeer, which I am obviously
biased towards, and a bit of madness by Luisa Felix featuring her "Comic Cats" Frenzy and
Mellow. Luisa also contributes a nicely rendered backcover study of Steve McQueen.
This fanzine is notable as the very first book to bear the symbol of the new Pizazz Comics
co-op. I don't see a price, but $1.00 ought to get you a copy. Order from Steve Shipley/
2157 Glenwood Ave./ Toledo, OH 43620.

The prolific Steve Shipley also publishes an occasional newsletter "presenting a
Christian perspective on comics, cartooning, & the graphic arts." A typical issue of
WARRIOR runs about six pages and boasts superlative layout, top-notch artwork, a letter
column, and a number of interesting article/commentaries. WARRIOR is free from the address
listed above, but donations of $1.00 or so are accepted and I heartily encourage them.
A worthwhile endeavor, and enthralling, even if you're not religiously inclined.

PIZZAZZ COMICS UNLIMITED is the official newsletter for the new Pizazz Comics co-op.
This is, as may you have heard, the group started by Steve Shipley (Sheesh! Does that guy
get around! Hey, Steve, do you ever sleep??) as a reaction to alleged injustice within
the UFC. Pizazz members abide by a strict code of morality, detailed in the latest issue
of their newsletter (#2), restricting the content of their zines and forbidding nudity,
profanity, drugs, and excessive bloodletting in same. It's a tough code to adhere to,
but, if you think you can, and you'd like to help this promising new fan organization
establish themselves in today's often unjust and profane fandom, you can get the inside
scoop on joining by contacting Steve Shipley at his address above. In the meantime, you
can order the Pizazz newsletter by sending Steve $7.00 for a six-issue, bi-monthly sub-
scription.

"Here's the blockbuster you've been clamoring for!! In this, the Arvel Age of Comics!"
Hahahah! So begins Carl Taylor's hilarious new mini-comic CAPTAIN GOOD. John Q. Righteous
becomes a super-hero after eating a genetically altered apple pie and springs into action
against the nefarious Mean Man. This villain is so nasty, he does stuff like putting hot
sauce in a cat's litter box, causing an unfortunate feline to explode from within at an
embarrassing moment, offering candy to a little boy and then eating it himself as the poor
lad cries and bathing attacking police officers with his disgusting diarrhea ray!
Mightyrat tries to intervene, but is eaten by Super Kat, who is, in turn, devoured by
Mightydog (on break from one of his commercials). This book will have you rolling on the
floor. There's no price on it, but I imagine 50¢ and a stamp will get you a copy. Order
from Carl Taylor and FreshWave Comics/ PO Box 76490/ Los Angeles, CA 90076.

HEY! GUESS WHO STOPPED BY FOR LUNCH!

Dan Burke is here! And, the best part of him joining us for lunch is... he's buying
the pizza and Pepsi!! Gee, that Dan-- what a swell guy. In fact, I'd like to invite all of
you over to Dan's place in Daytona for pizza the next time you're in Florida. I'm certain Dan won't mind. Oh yeah, and bring your Mom and Dad and all those brothers and sisters, too. No problem, right Dan? Dan?

FROM DAN BURKE: I'm glad to be here and thank you for the gracious introduction. I'm here sitting in the east wing of Steve's home here in lush Orlando, Florida. We are sitting in a hot tub sipping ice cold zinfandel and talking fanzines. Steve, it has been a pleasure to meet you and Cindy and can't wait to get together again.

Back to Skeeter: Heh, that Dan Burke, what a card. If you think his remarks here were strange, you should order a copy of his outrageous ARTMEN. It's a 24-page, lovingly-crafted and side-splittingly funny parody of that popular WATCHMEN series. Great stuff, and it's only $1.50 pae from Dan Burke Apt. 211/ 1400 S. Nova Rd./ Daytona, Fl. 32011.

The story of my acquaintance with Dan is an interesting one. Dan was one of the people who ordered my original line of OM and MANTRA fanzines way back in the early '70s. He gaffiated ("gaffia" is a fan term seldom used these days, which stands for Getting Away From It All--dropping out of fandom) in the latter part of that decade, as I was ultimately to do also. I returned to fandom, at Jim Main's urging, in late 1984/early 1985. Sometime during 1987, Dan came across a copy of SMALL PRESS COMICS EXPLOSION in some comic shop or other--and was surprised and delighted to find that fandom was still around and doing better than ever. He was also startled to come across my name listed in connection with one of my more recent pubs and the address--Orlando, Florida. Could this Steve Keeter living only about 15 minutes away from Dan's place be that same old fan who knocked out all those crude zines in runny purple ditto from a base in denton, North Carolina way back when? Well, sure, of course it was. I must say, I was every bit as surprised and happy to hear from Dan after so many years as he was to rediscover fandom.

And, anyone who says SFCE never did anything good is out of his ornery mind!

**JUST ONE MORE THING BEFORE I GO**

The Chicago Convention is coming up again this July 1-3. I'll be there, along with Jim Main, Tim Corrigan, Jim Pack,Jeff Wood, Wade Busby, and scores of other enthusiastic fanzine editors and publishers. It'd be a blast to see you there too! Lots of fun is expected to be had by all.

Anyway, I'll letcha know how it went next issue.

Keep smilin' everybody... and WRITE!

Best,

Steve Keeter 6/21/88

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THE UNITED FANZINE ORGANIZATION CHECKLIST

CAPTAIN SAUCER #19: 90¢ from Doug Holzerson/ Leontine Press/ 2800 College Rd./ Rm. #315/ Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501. Space-riding hilarious socially satirical genius!

EPIGRAPH #2: $1.00 from Larry Nibert/ 2980 W. Ball Rd. Apt. J12/ Anaheim, CA 92805

First new issue in 12 years! Nibert! Pack! Blake!

HEROIC #3 and #4: $1.00 for #3, 85¢ for #4 from Tom Fellrath/ Phoenix Productions/ 1 Plassent Hill Run/ W. Boylston, MA 01593. Comics and interviews and art.

PANTHEON #2: $1.00 from Wade Busby/Packetype Media/ 1628 5th Ave. SW/ Seattle, WA 98116

One of the most refreshing original alternative press books on the market.

DITKOMANTA #23: 94¢ from Bill Hall/ 10 Farm Hill Rd./ Middletown, CT 06457. GRATAT Tom Ahern/ Brian Waters strip this issue!

SUPERAN #18: $2.00 from Jim Main/ Flying Pig Publications/ 125 Fort Hill St. #3/ New Milford, CT 06776. Best issue yet of one of fandom's undeniably finest titles.

STIGMATA MARTYR #6: 75¢ from Bob Koslowski/ Kozmik Comix/ 1647 720 56th Pl/ Claremont Hills, IL 60614. Stiltic Sime's bizarre sf/fantasy hero.

SYNAPSE SHOWCASE #2: $1.99 from Matt Kanaras/ Synapse Comics/ 821 Pleasant St./ Worcester, MA 01602. 44 pages. 15 talented contributors. One meaty small press book!

ZEB #1: $1.39 from Bob Sturma/ Tangent Press/ 15706 Biscayne Dr./ South Bend, IN 46635. "The White Issue... Not unlike the Beatles' White Album!"

TITANATOM FRAGMENTS (THE UFP NEWSLETTER): $1.75 from Jeff Wood/ PO Box 95198/ Seattle, WA 98105-2198.