TETRAGRAMMATON
FRAGMENTS
#90 (Vol. 8, #6)

Take-my-gramma... Where?

Pow! Sok!

G-BLAM! IM

Sigh... I just wanna go home.

But--what does it all mean?

Toiletman + Co. © Don Martinez '85
UNITED FANZINE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

1) Will Bynum, Rt. 2, Box 100, Bryant, Al. 35958 ($1.50)
   Frontiers '85 (March '86)
2) Sam Gafford, 2755 Scituate Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02920 (.12) ($$$$$)
   ETERNITY (Nov. '85)
3) Bill Hall, 10 Farm Hill Rd., Middletown, Conn. 06457 (5.32)
   DITKOMANIA (July '86)
4) Jim Main, 125 Fort Hill St., New Milford, Conn. 06776 (1.16)
   *PPFSZT!, TARGET, HEROIC, COMIC SPECTRUM, (May '86)
5) Francis Mao, 48A Putnam Blvd., Wallingford, Pa. 19086 (2.03)
   NARF (March '86)
6) Don Martinez, 8556 Ridge Rd., NE, Kinsman, Ohio 44428 (.16) ($$$$$)
   FIANOLM (Nov. '85)
7) Ross Riahala, 802 Hawthorne St., Cloquet, MN. 55720 ($$$$$$)
   Moonstone (July '86)
8) Steve Keeter, 1003 E. Amelia St., Orlando, Fla. 32803 (2.46)
   MANTRA, OM (July '86)
9) Gene Kehoe, 8708 Carole Circle 11, Urbandale, IA. 50322 (2.78)
   IT'S A FANZINE (Sept. '86)
10) Jeff Wood, 6056 Wellesley Way, Seattle, Wash. 98115 (2.78)
    Georgey Horsey, Perihellion (July '86)
11) Larry Blake, Rt. 1, Reedsville, Ohio 45772 ($$$$$$)
    AFTERWORLD
12) Wade Busby, 4028 5th Ave., SW., Seattle, Wash. 98116 ($$$$$)
    BRIGADE (Sept. '86)

Codes-$$$$$ means send money in for your account. The date after your zine's title is the date in which you must publish by.

U.F.O. VOTING:
Main for Prez: 4 yes, 1 no, others NV (passed!)
Mantra #6: 2 satisfactory, (Jim and Bill), all others NV
New Constitution: Passed!
Ditkomania #12: Satisfactory
*PPFSZT! #12: Satisfactory

Item to vote on by next issue:
amendment to the constitution stating that, "A Chairman shall be elected in September, by a majority vote, to a one year term commencing in Nov. Those running for the position of Chairman must start their campaign no later than the July issue of the newsletter." (read about this in my column "Main Lines."

No change in subscribers from last issue, except this is the last issue for subber Kevin Collier. HA! Now it's my turn to tell him that his sub has expired!!!!!

Lost and Gained:
Lost: Kirk Chritton, who tells me he has given up on publishing and accepted a job at Supergraphics in Reading, PA. Good luck Kirk, we'll miss you. (Jeff Wood, by the way, will be taking over as ed. on Plasma.)

Chris Rock, who has missed writing to TF for two issues in a row, is the first member of this newly organised group to get the boot. Chris can always ask to be re-instated and it's up to the group to vote on the matter.

GAINED: WHERE DO I BEGIN? Larry Blake, Gene Kehoe, Jeff Wood, and Wade Busby!!!
Welcome all. Now get some UFO zines pubbed guys!!!!!!
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED FANZINE ORGANIZATION!

Tetragrammaton Fragments is the official newsletter of the United Fanazine Organization (UFO) and is sent to members for cost and postage, as well as subscribers for 75 cents per issue, or six issues for $4.00.

If you wish to apply for membership, contact the current Chairman, and notify him of your intention.

Editor-Publisher-Chairman***Jim Main

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THIS IS TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS # 90!!!! VOLUME 8, #6. Deadline for #91 is November 15th 1985. BE THERE, AND REMEMBER TO VOTE ON THE AWARDS!!!!!

Re-Awakening of the Grim One, #6. By Jim Main, 125 Fort Hill St., #3, New Milford, Conn. 06776.

Hello there, fellow zine pubbers. This will be rather short as I'm trying to get this done and to the printers tomorrow.

Review: Mantra #6. A fine issue from Steve Keeter, but, ooooh, that front cover! Definitely satisfactory! Even better than that.

*PPFSATG* #12 will not be an all sf issue after all. I got in some nice non theme related stuff that I changed everything around. It'll be a biggie though! About 12 people will be contributing to this one! Should be out in October.

COMICS FANDOM WORLD IS DEAD!!!! Look for "COMICS SPECTRUM" in the near future.

That's all---

Jimbo

MUST WRITE BY NEXT ISSUE: Francis Mao, Wade Busby, Jeff Wood, Gene Fehner, Larry Blake, Ross Riahala. And you new guys send some money for dues, eh!
Don Martinec decided at the last minute to run against me for Chairman, but, according to the Constitution, the CHAIRMAN "shall be elected in August, by a plurality vote to one year term commencing in October." So, I would imagine that even without the votes of the other members I had won. But this new bunch of UFO members began in November of last year, so I think that it should be changed. It should read, "A Chairman will be elected in September, by a majority vote, to a one year term commencing in November." That is the way I think it should read, since this group began in November of last year. But here it is, September, and not only does Don Martinec decide at the last minute to run against me, doing it in a very late period in which there is no time for his campaign, I also notice that only four votes were cast in my favor, as Frank, Ross, Gene, Jeff, and Larry and Wade (the last four being new members), and obviously coming in too late to vote on the matter didn't vote. So, the first two should've voted, but since the time period is over, the non-votes count as abstained votes, and so I win on a technicality! Next year, I think those running for Chairman should announce their intentions, and do their campaigning in the May or July issues of TF. That too, should be a new amendment to the Constitution, or added onto the one that tells of when the Chairman should be voted on. So, I would like you all to vote on the passage of this new rewording to the Constitution, "A Chairman shall be elected in September, by a majority vote, to a one year term commencing in November. Those running for the position of Chairman must start their campaign in-theno later than by the July issue of the UFO Newsletter." I think that would be very beneficial to us all, and eliminate any headaches brought about by a last minute entry. So, please vote on this new reworded article by next issue, okay?

Of course, another subject you should all vote on is the New Constitution, (with my new proposal as well) but I can technically, and I think, will, put a majority vote passage on this as well, since the votes needed come again, from the new crop of members, plus Bill Hall, and Fran Mao, and Don Martinec also needed to vote on this, and their votes counted the most. So, the whole thing is stalemated without the other votes which leaves me with only one thing to do to possibly break the tie.....

There, I just called Bill Hall, and he voted for the new constitution!!! How simple that was!!!

I'd like to welcome to the group our new members Jeff Wood, Gene Sedge, Wade Busby and Larry Blake. Hope to see some UFO zines from you guys really soon.

Unfortunately we've lost two members as of this issue. First, Chris Rock, for not writing to TF for two issues in a row. I hated to be the one to do it, but rules is rules/Kirk Chritton is the other who is no longer with us. He wrote me a nice letter to explain that his leaving was due to his moving to Reading, Pa., because of his employment at Supergraphics as an assistant editor. Good luck Kirk, you'll be missed around here. Jeff Wood, by the way, will be taking over Kirk's zine Plasma as Editor.

Finally, let's talk about the UFO AWARDS. Basically it'll work like this: The zines published by UFO members (UFO zines that have the emblem and checklist) between Nov. '84 and Oct. 31st 1985 are those whose material and staff, as well as their editors, will be the subjects of voting categories.
All members of the UFO, whether they will have a UFO zine pubbed by Oct. 31st or not, must participate in the voting. When Oct. 31st rolls around, I will print up and distribute a ballot listing the categories and the voting choices. All members will select two choices in each category and then send the ballot back to me pronto. The results will be printed in the UFO newsletter for Nov., so it is imperative that all ballots be returned to me before Nov. 16th. PLEASE, EVERYBODY VOTE!!!!

And on that note, .... it is time to depart. One other thing, it is also imperative that all members send me a recent photo of yourselves for the artist who will be doing the awards strip. You wouldn't want your cartoon version of yourself accepting an award with a paper bag over itself, would you???

THAT'S ALL*****

Jim Main

MY CONTRIBUTION # SOMETHING OR OTHER.

REALLY RUNNIN' LATE THISH, SO A COUPLE' QUICK COMMENTS I'LL GO INTO DETAIL NEXT SH--

ADMIT ONE: BRIGADE COMICS. LAYOUTS NEED A BIT OF WORK THROUGH "TALKING HEADS." SATISFACTORY RATINGS FOR DICKMANIA III AND AF 24 (ACTUALLY, "SATISFACTORY" ISN'T A STRONG ENOUGH WORD)

IM I F IT'S NOT TOO LATE, I'LL RUN AGAINST YOU FOR CHAIRMAN JUST TO KEEP YOU FROM GETTING CUCKY. LARRY & 000-KAY! GLAD I'M NOT THE 1ST SUPER-HERO FAN! WILL U MM... NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN THE 'FRONTIER'S' NEWSLETTER. FRANCIS... AH THAT YEW WERE FAII... TEVE? *BLUSH* DAWH, WHAT THE F*#K? LUSY HUCK IS DFCAF OR A 'DUFFLE FOUNTAIN' & THAT MATER? OOPS -- IS MY IGNORANCE SHOWING?

'NIGHT, ALL!

Jim Main

pg. 5
**ALAS, POOR JEFF, WE KNEW HIM...WELL?**

I finally received a zine from Jeff Nicholson, although it appears to be a moot point; Jim informs me that the Kaptain of Klutz Enterprises no longer appears interested in joining our beloved organization. This is a true shame, as the copy of FANDOM TEAM-UP #1 I received ranks among the best zines I've ever seen. As I like to use numerical ratings when reviewing zines, I'd actually have to give this book a "10". Only once before have I felt compelled to bestow this nearly unattainable rating upon someone; that was Jay Zilber for FANDOM FUNNYES #3 (the Buyer's Guide parody) a decade ago (and Jay rewarded me by giving MANTRA #3 a "5"...the beginning of a feud that I still don't like to recall).

I also received...

**IT'S A FANZINE #29 (from Gene Kehoe):** I keep going through this thing trying to find something that can be criticized, but it ain't easy. Well, there's an annoying ugly (amateurish one might say) sketch thrown smack dat into the middle of the type on the editorial page...that's one thing. Uh...I can barely relate to the comic reviews in the "Comic Book Report Card" section, as I read very few pros nowadays...but that's not your fault. I can't find much in the way of substance and production here that Isn't quite excellent, but I can find certain comments in the various articles that I disagree. For example, Gary Cooper says that Bill Benulis is "one of the greatest artists to have worked in comics". Well, I don't have any comics lying around that this vaunted figure illustrated, but the two samples on page 9 look unnervingly sinister-ish -- which tends to eliminate originality as a prerequisite to greatness in this case. Dennis McDonough's article on homosexuality in the comics was absorbing, and I'm glad to see someone finally pointing out some of the things that aren't perfect about Chaykin's AMERICAN FLAG. Am I the only one in fandom who finds this zine boring, ugly, and otherwise repulsive (AF not IAF: excuse me for not being plain)? Why fandom has chosen to deify Chaykin's neemarch comic, honoring it was award after award is beyond me. Anyway, my differing in opinion with some of the reviewers and writers in IT'S A FANZINE in no way affects my appreciation of the obvious effort and genuine talent involved in producing a zine as attractive and entertaining as this one is. I rate IT'S A FANZINE #29 a 9.25 and, of course, vote YES for Gene Kehoe's admittance into the UFO. Welcome aboard, Gene!

**BRIGADE COMICS #4 (Wade L. Busby):** Here's a zine with complex, involved scripting, a strong plot, and well-developed characters. And although I despise continued stories in zines, due to the fact that there is almost always a long wait between issues of fan publications, the chapter of the Brigade saga that is presented herein works quite well as a self-contained tale within a tale. What holds the mag down somewhat is the

*How could I pass this up? SUPER OUPER!!*
quality of the artwork. In spite of some interesting experimentation with perspective shots and offset backgrounds, the art comes across as being very bland and two-dimensional. This will certainly improve with the passage of time, as Wade develops techniques of adding depth and shadow to his nevertheless intriguing etchings. I do like the front cover logo. BRIGADE COMICS #4 rates a "5" with me and Wade Busby gets a YES vote for UFO membership.

LEMMY CLARIFY SOMETHING

A word may be necessary about my zine ratings. I do not have a set system for rating fanzines, as certain former members of our illustrious co-op have had (giving, for instance, up to 3 points for art, up to 3 for writing, up to 3 for production, and an extra optional point for enthusiasm/fannishness). I prefer to rely on my subjective gut-instincts at any given time. My ratings are therefore inherently imperfect and not to be taken too terribly seriously. Although a fanzine superficially great looks may elicit an almost-mandatory high rating, certain flawed lower-rated zines may have a much greater appeal due to sheer fannish enthusiasm and noticeable love for the subject presented therein. In other words, don't be insulted if I find myself unable to rate your publication as high as someone else. I love all the zines I've been receiving and fandom in general very much. The ratings are a tool only --a necessary evil of being a member of a group that prides itself in the general high quality of the books carrying its seal.

NOW HERE'S AN INTERESTING FANZINE

MANTRA #6 has been out for a couple of months now and I hope you all enjoyed it. Can't wait to hear (er...read) what you have to say about this one. Reactions so far have been pretty good, although a number of newer fans are a little perplexed by all this Rod Snyder and Lee Jackson gaffiate material. Well, I did want to give the issue a seventies feel and I had a lot of unprinted stuff from a decade ago. The idea was to create a feeling of nostalgia for fans who were around in those days, as well as to give some of the denizens of present-day fan times a peak at the type of fanzine that was prevalent in those days. I don't believe that I was totally unsuccessful in that respect. MANTRA #7 (and I hope to have it out before the end of the year) will be a lot more timely, with lots of neat stuff from modern fandom as well as new material from some us old dinosaurs.

SPEAKING OF FANDOM TEAM-UPS

Jim Main and I are working together on a revival of my early '70s, pre-MANTRA, fanzine OM. When OM #3 was published in 1974, it contained a number of continued strips that were just left hanging when the zine was cancelled. After all these years, there is hardly anyone left in fandom who remembers those tales, but the fact that those stories were never concluded has been nagging at me for years. Sooooo...I got together with the Grim One and we're collaborating on an OM #4 and #5 that will at last bring these epics to their conclusions, as well as concluding an ancient Acrobat and Simian tale left, likewise, cliff-hung from #PPFSKT: #6. Like the Brigade strip in Wade Busby's above revived zine, these tales will be readable as complete tales within themselves besides being parts of serial. And the Acrobat and Simian adventure (an 18-pager scripted by Jim Main) will be a jam strip with some of the original artwork by Steve LaFler complimented by new scratchings by Carl Taylor, Larry Blake, Jeff Gaither, and the Skeeter "among others".

AND SPEAKING OF ZINE REVIVALS

One of my favorite fanzines of the early-mid '70s was Steve Shipley's DYNAMITE. This strip-zine, originally a ditto-zine, survived for nine great issues and featured early efforts by Shipley himself, the Skeeter, Larry Blake, Larry Nibert, and Matt Feasel. I recently contacted Steve Shipley and he has agreed to turn the rights to DYNAMITE over to Happy Face Publications. A new issue is already underway, and I'm working on all of the original contributors (it's amazing --we're all still around!), trying to corral all of them for this Revival to End All Revivals.
MAIN FOR CHAIRMAN!

Well, golly gosh, Jim -- of course I vote YES for your second term. However, not to worry if a number of members display some apathy towards voting for you. If no one runs against you, you win by default whether or not anyone votes. This is really pretty much how Kurt Erichsen was elected for his second and third terms as chairman, and Jay Zilber was elected for his second. No one ran against them so they were automatically instated.

This also would seem to apply to voting. If a majority of members vote yes on a fanzine editor's admittance into the co-op, then that person should be allowed entrance even if a couple of members still haven't voted. At least, that's the way I interpret the constitution. You're the chairman, however, so you can interpret the rules the way you see fit.

CONSTITUTION YES, INDICIA NO

When I brought up my new constitution a couple of issues ago, I also suggested that we return to using the original Gafford UFO "statement of purpose", the one stating that "should a member zine sink below the level of quality allowed, it is swiftly expelled". Since then, it has been pointed out to me that this smacks of snobishness and elitism, and I'm inclined to agree. The present indicia is much less likely to put on potential new members and I now would prefer to stick with it. I still support my revamped constitution, though.

LAFFY BLAKE: Welcome to the UFO! About time! Can't wait to see that new AFTERWORLD.

DON PORTER: Super-glads to see you back in fandom; now let's see a new DF fanzine. C'mon, old man, you can do it! Uh... Scott Taylor, huh? I looked up all of my old DFFCRs to see who you were comparing me with and... uh huh. Yeah, that's the guy who once published HIS HEPATONE ADVENT. But I draw better than that! I too think it would be nice to have current TFs zapped Kurt Erichsen-way. Since he gaffiated, tho, no one knows where his current whereabouts are. I wonder if his parents' address in Coos Bay remains unchanged. That might be a good place to begin in an attempt to locate the old Ditto Wiz.

THE NUMBER ONE QUESTION ON EVERY UFO MEMBER'S MIND

HOW THE HELL DO YOU PRONOUNCE PSSST?! For years, fans have been asking Jim Main how to pronounce the moniker of his flagship zine, and for years, Jim has maintained an infuriating silence regarding this important matter. But now, we demand an answer!!! My guess is that it's pronounced "pssst". That's right, Isn't it, Jim? Jim?

THE TWO OTHER BIGGEST UFO MYSTERIES

(1) Will Chris Rock publish?
(2) Will Sam Gafford publish?

AND AS THE SUN SETS SLOWLY IN THE EAST

Or, you might say, "as the bottom of the page rapidly approaches", a sense of urgency sets in. It now becomes necessary to close out this mess with some degree of dignity, some air of savoir faire, some sense of... NaAAAAAAAAahhhhh.

Best,

STEVE KEETER

Steve Keeter
ARTICLE 1: To become a member of the UFO, one must apply to the chairman and/or be placed on speculation by a member, send copies of his/her current fandom to each member, and receive the approval of a simple majority of the members.

ARTICLE 2: Members must publish a minimum of one issue and 20 pages (or the equivalent) of a membership per year. They must supply one free copy of their membership(s) as it is published, to each of the other members. They must not receive a less than satisfactory rating average from the members on any two consecutively published memberships. They must participate in the general activities of the UFO and contribute to the UFO NEWSLETTER, never missing two consecutive issues.

ARTICLE 3: In consideration of the time and effort expended in the production of the UFO NEWSLETTER, a newly elected chairman will be allowed two years — dating from the publication of his first ML — to publish an issue of his regular fandom, instead of the one-twelve-a-year publication schedule for other members.

ARTICLE 4: Memberships are fandoms published by UFO members which display the UFO seal on either the front or back cover, editorial, or contents page, and contains either the UFO CHECKLIST or the abbreviated checklist. There is no limit to the number of titles one may publish as memberships.

ARTICLE 5: The UFO is limited to a total of 15 members. Others applying after the limit is reached will be placed on a waiting list and considered for membership in the order in which they applied.

ARTICLE 6: A chairman will be elected in August by majority vote to a one-year term commencing in October. He may be removed from office only by majority vote.

ARTICLE 7: The chairman shall edit and publish the UFO NEWSLETTER, conduct the general business, manage the UFO accounts, or delegate these affairs. He may appoint a successor if unable to continue for any reason, who will reign as chairman until a special election can be held.

ARTICLE 8: The UFO NEWSLETTER will be used for general business of the co-op, including the rating of memberships, voting on applicants, as well as all of the official voting, and the discussion of all UFO matters.

ARTICLE 9: Amendments to the UFO CONSTITUTION, decisions to run co-op advertisements, establishment of major policies and similar business shall require a comprehensively worded motion, one second, and the approval of a simple majority for passage.
No new applicant-zines? (And we were worried about limiting membership?)

Including DM, there were three memberzines published since the previous issue: TENTONAUTOMATON, FIREDANCE, and IT'S A FANZINE #29. It was a perfect 10, satisfactory that is. The well thought-out, on target reviews included a favorable one for DM. A forgotten artist was spotlighted and an amusing bit of Archie history was brought to light. I've always been a Huntress fan and John Wells wrote an excellent article about her. The Trash Bin was my favorite single page and a feature that I hope will continue for quite a while. And there was a (hoo-ray) Letters' Page.

Also more than satisfactory was Skeet's MANTRA #6. Lots of letters, lots of strips, and lots of fun. There was only a single article but it was an excellent look at Ursula K. Le Guin's favorite science fiction writer. The perfect fanzine.

I hope that you all enjoyed DITKOMANIA QUARTERLY #14, #15 will be completed in time for an arcane All Hallow's Eve mailing ritual (yes, Tim Boo Ba will be invited). It is about half done as I write this. I have artwork by Mike Harris, Francis Mao, Mike Tuz, Brian Waters and Ken Hahn. There will be the first in a series of articles about pre-code Ditko comics by Mike Tuz. There is another of Rodney Schroeter's objectivist outlook articles. And?

NEXT TIME I TAKE THE FIFTH
IS IT STILL ALIVE?? asks Sam Gafford of 275E Scituate Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island, 02920.

Hi, remember me? Most of you probably won't, while some of you are going to be downright indignant towards me. I am the fellow (yes, I freely admit it) who was supposed to have his zine done and out by January of '85! I'm sure most of you are screaming, "When is Gafford going to get off his butt and publish this thing? Is he that much like his brother?" Truthfully, I've wondered the same thing. Let me give you a brief rundown. Eternity began with high hopes. Jim sent me an excellent strip which fit in perfectly with the zines format, and all I had to do was come up with the other two. Not knowing anyone else to tap, it fell to me to write and draw each strip. Which took me a hell of a long time. Finally, about late May, early June, I finished the pencils and fanned them out to a friend to letter. It took him nearly 2 to 3 months to do so. Finally, I have the long lost pages back in my hands and I'm undergoing the long, tedious process of inking the pages. Add onto this the fact that even if Eternity was ready this second, I could not go to press. Why? Severe financial difficulties, that's why. I seriously am having trouble scraping together enough for meals between paychecks. I hope (Oh God! Do I hope!) that this problems ends soon and that I can zip Eternity out soon. In the meantime, I am trying to work on other projects, but I find little free time these days. If worse comes to worse, I shall do a reviewzine to make my November deadline. Is this legal, Jim? Anyway, I do want to thank everyone for the patience you've shown (truly, even gods aren't this patient) and the encouragement, it has been extremely appreciated. I'm also sorry that I haven't had the time to reply to all the letters I've gotten. It's not because of snobbery or disinterest. I just don't have much time anymore! So please don't take offense at my long silence.

On to the voting:
Admit Ross: Definately, I'd be stupid not to realise the quality of his zine.
Admit Gene: Yep, while the issue didn't score all the time, it was always interesting.
Admit Larry: YES! Everyone else better vote yes too! This was a great zine, a joy to read, and some above average art. Good work!!
Admit: Wade. The zine was a bit loose in writing and art, but enjoyable.
Ratings: *PPFSZT! and DITKOMANIA both get thumbs up from me. YES for both the new constitution and Jim for Prez. Who else could do such a great job or be so patient with me?

Sorry people, I can't do any more now, not that you'd want to hear any more from me anyway! Hope to have something for you all soon...

Best,

Sam
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT?

SEND TO:

Don Martinec
3856 Ridge Rd. N.E.
Kingsport, TN 44428

FROM: Jim Main/125 Fort Hill St./New Milford, Ct. 06776

Send $$$ Don