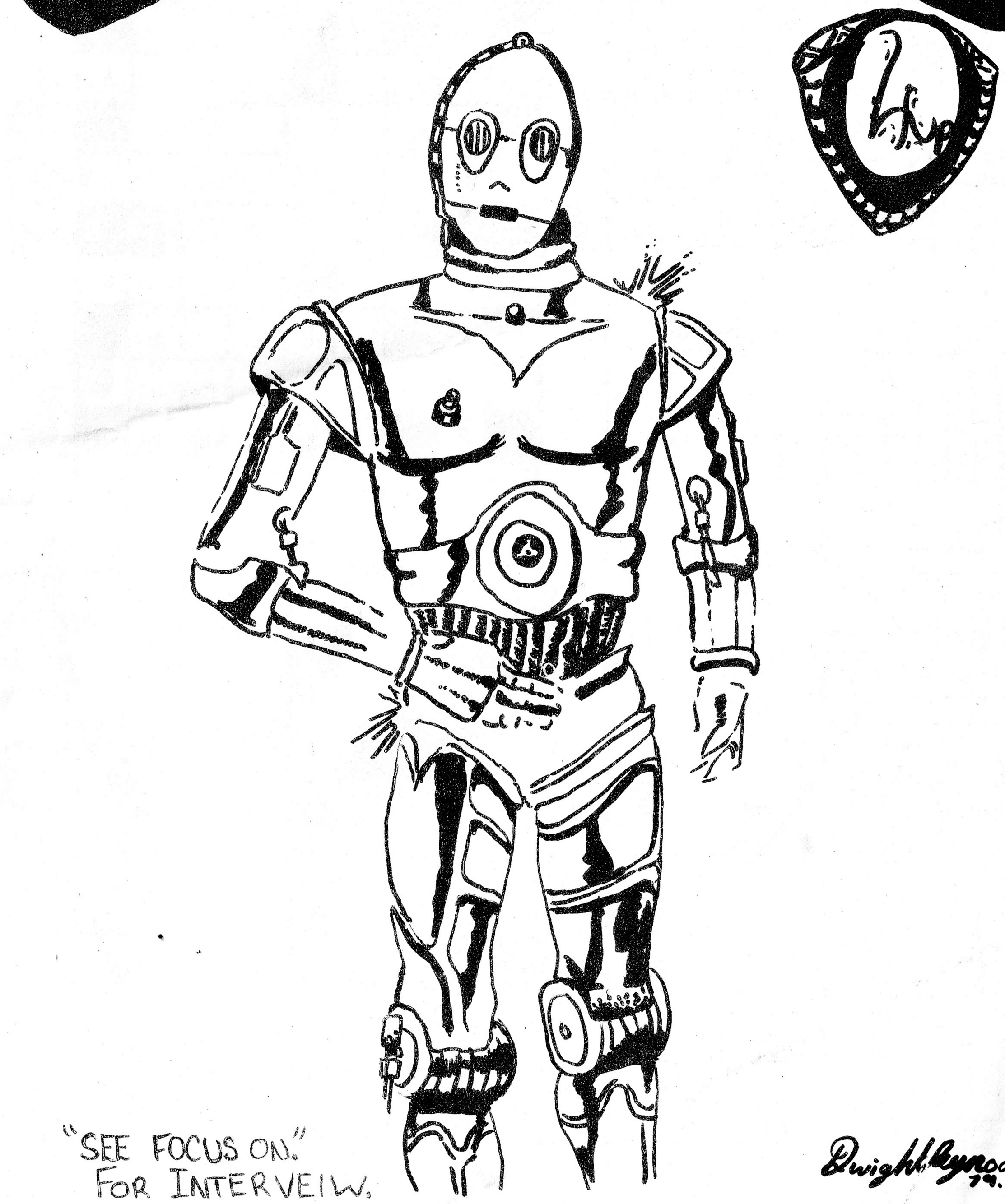
CACTUS



"SEE FOCUS ON."
FOR INTERVEIW.

Dwight Reynolds.

EDITORIAL

For this edition our editorial comes all the way from Denmark where the writer has gone for his Xmas holiday. (You're probably wondering why anybody would go to Denmark for a winter holiday, but this is easily explained as he had the map upside down when he booked and thought he was booking for a Mediterranean resort on the Itali-an Riviera) The name of the place he is staying at is Karrebacksmind (pronounced Karrebacksmind and, strangely enough, spelt Karrebacks-mind!) and is one of those exorb-itant, fun-loving, money grabbing holiday centres where you must pay for every facility.

But now over to Denmark.....
Exciting news from Denmark!!!!!
Use of the Swimming Pool is FREE!!
'Use of the Swimming Pool' (a comm-on Danish name!) is a convicted mass-murderer and spider molester whohas escaped from a high security prison (No not the holiday camp) near where I am staying. His escape was fiendishly well planned, he went to the chief warden and said that his football had gone over the wall and could he go and get it.

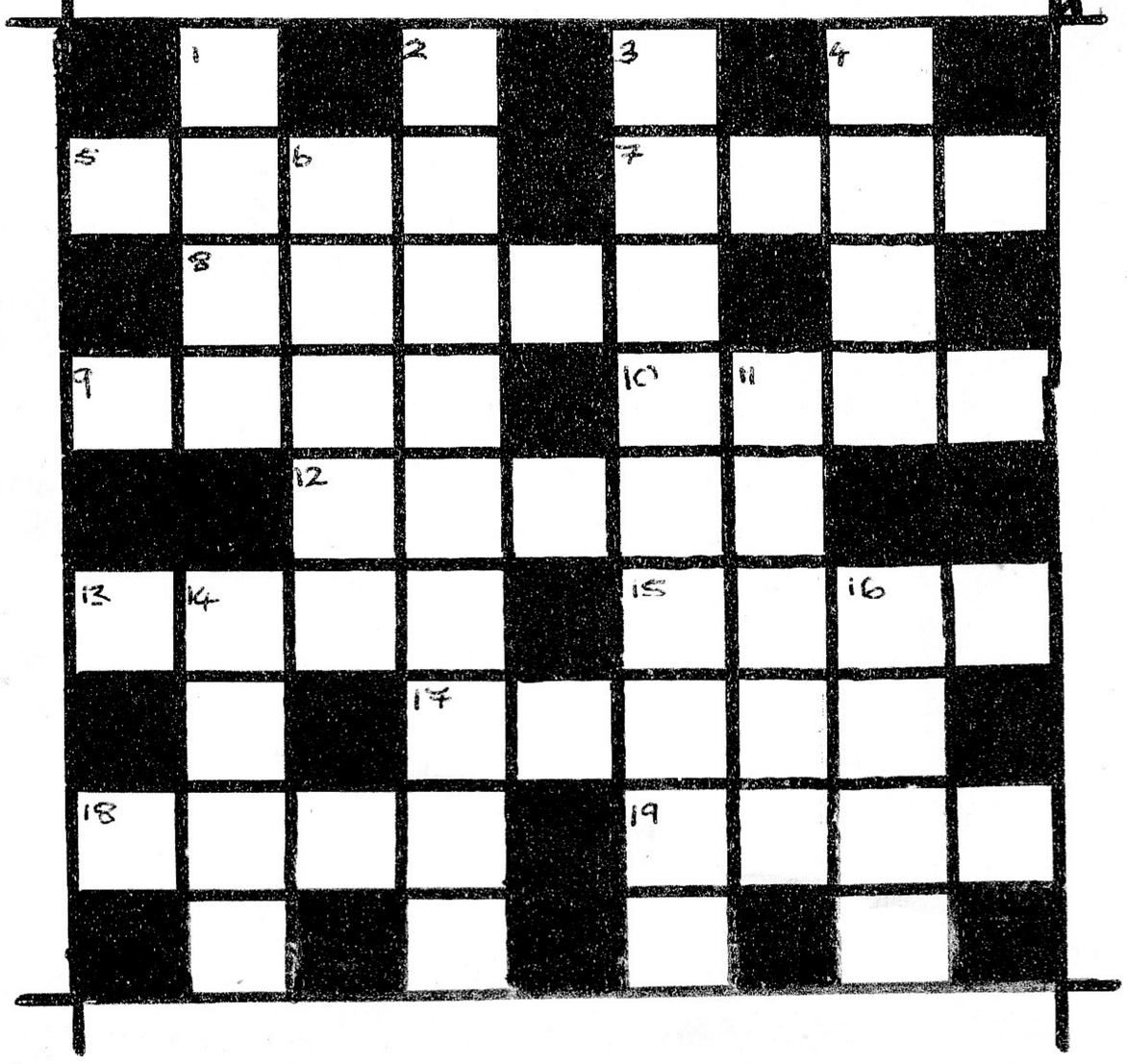
Once on the loose he was fortunate enough to come across an unguarded army wagon containing 300 machine guns and 3,000 rounds of amunition and 20,000 gas bombs. The police have told us that if we hear gun-fire we should hit the floor of the chalet and duck the bullets. (Much more entertaining than table-tennis at Butlins and funny hats at Pontins eh?). Where he has secreted himself and his lorry beats me because 'the scenic countryside' (as stated in my brochure) consists of roughly 1,000 miles (something or other kilometers) of flat fields.

There is, however, a lovely Wind-mill on the horizon, speaking of w which, Ihave wind after my meal, which I bolted too quickly. Luckily I have a ton of bicarbonate of soda which the police chief gave to me when I asked him in relation to the escaped convict, what I should do in case of a gas attack.

We would like to thank Ian Ander--son, Gary Cooper, Mike Coke, Mr. Reid, Mark Painter, Crispin and Miss Ack--erman for their contributions to the last edition.

" Ed.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS.

5. A two-masted, square-rigged vessel (4).
7. Decays (4).
8. A girl's name, or a kind of health plant (5).
9. One of the vessels that carries blood round the body (4).
10. Smoke or vapour, or to be in a rage (4).
12. A tiny piece of food, or a slang word for a fight (5).
13. Reflection of a sound (4).
15. London Passenger Transport Board (4).
17. Drives something or someone forward (5).
18. One not to be believed (4).
19. A desert dweller (4).

DOWN

1. To set at liberty (4).
2. Famous battle fought in France by Henry V in 1415 (9).
3. Battle in which Admiral Nelson was killed (9).
4. Part of a flower (4).
6. The nationality of one born in Dublin, for example (5).
11. The part of a shoe above the sole (5).
14. A chid's bed (4).
16. An old Russian ruler (4).

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE.

Across:
1. Vents 5. Fear 6. Oust 8. Names 9. Arcs 10. Spin 11. Coup 13. Ache 14. Vaunt 15. Deep 16. Teds 17. Razed....

Down:
1. Vancouver 2. Eras 3. Toes 4. Suspected 5. Flaccid 7. tenders 12. Papa 13. Ante....

FOCUS ON...

C3-PO..... Anthony Daniels

Q:What was your first reaction when you first saw the full length film?

A:Well,it's very strange,because when I made the film,I should have seen the rushes of the day's shooting,seeing any mistakes that you made and maybe doing it better the next day.However,I thought that because I was dressed in this ridiculous costume I would get very nervous if I looked at myself.I feared I'd get embarrassed and I'd feel silly and not be able to do it at all,so anyway I never watched any of the rushes.The first time I saw the film was at the Dominion.I hated it because I was nervous;I sat there trembling every time I came on.I thought it was awful .I didn't really notice too much of the film and I didm't enjoy it much.I saw it again a few months later and I was more relaxed and really enjoyed it.I saw it much as people would see it for the first time.

Q:Could you tell us how you got involved in the film?

A:Well,it started very much against my will. I didn't want to play a machine as I'm just an ordinary actor.I was eventually to go and meet George Lucas,the Director.I got on very well with him and saw the script,which I liked very much.We talked for a long time and I became really interested in playing the part.As far as I could see,C3PO seemed to be the best character in the entire film, soit didn't really matter whether he was a m machine or not.

Q:What were the working conditions like in the making of the film?

A:Well,it's funny in a way,being on location in the middle of the desert.I imagine it was rather like that in the war,the same spirit and unity when you're in the middle of no--where.I expected things to be better in England,but they were'nt.It was the hottest summer for years and you can imagine the heat in the C3PO costume.It would have been bad enough in an ordinary costume under the arc-lights,but it was intolerable in the suit.I kept faintintg and sweated constantly Ioften felt miserable,but some people were vvery impatuent in the end;the film took rather too long to make,so I wasn't too unhappy when it finished.

Q:Could you tell us something about the costume?

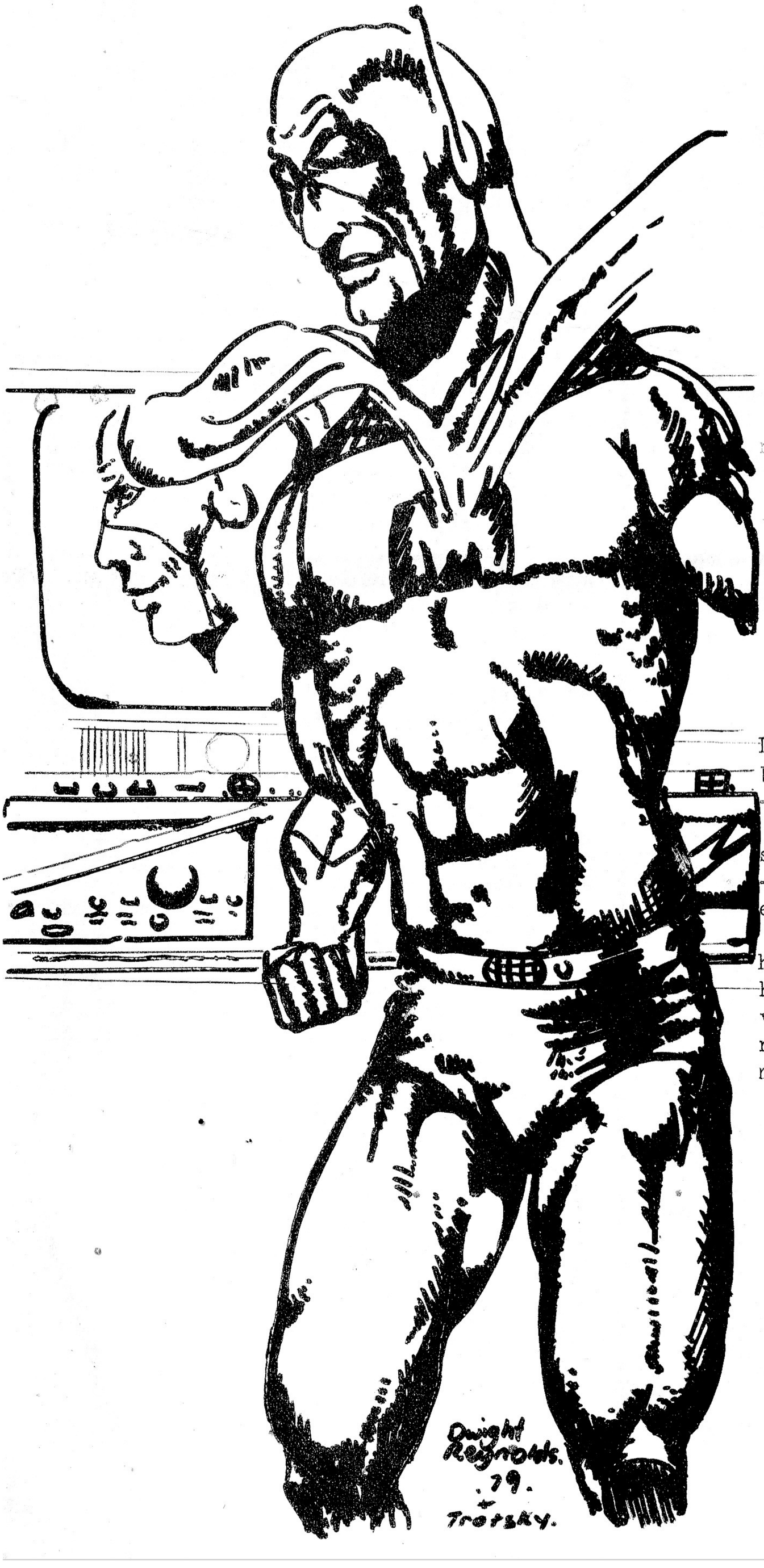
A:Well,it ciomes in about 22 pieces I think.As it's rather more solid than I am;the costume's made of metal and plastic,it didn't give so I had to give Unfortunately it tended to stick into me a lot,and had some very sharp edges. Really it was mostly made of fibreglaaa--ss.Starting from the bottom up,I had on a pair of tights and a leotard,some sailing shoes which were below the gold shoes which were made of plastic. The legs were made of fibreglass and were were very heavy,you had to kind of put them on backwards and twist them round; putting them on is rather like a CHin--ese puzzle.The middle bit is plastic and the centre section ir subber with many wires sewn on.The chest and the back are again fibreglass and are very, very heavy.The arms are made of Allum--inium and they're very strange.They made a lot of mistakes making them. They got a designer to make a sculptor for the fingers out of steel,but they were so heavy I couldn't lift my hands for more than 20-30 seconds before they dropped,they were totally unusable as hands,just great chunks of metal.Even--tually I got so cross about it,that they made them out of aluminium,which was a bit lighter.The head is fibre--glassas well.The eyes were quite int--esting;they were rather like car ref--lectors.They had a hole through the middle,but start off with vertical gold --painted slats rather like venetian blinds.Inside that were inserted 3 lights which don't get hot,like medical lights.

Q:Anthony Daniels thank you very much.

A:Thank you.

MARVEL MAN.

By A.WINTZEL & Dwight.A.Reynolds



Marvel Man, introduced in Cactus edition number thirteen, will now become a regular feature of Cactus. To begin the story we would like to explain how he came to possess his extraordinary powers.

He was one of the down-and-outs of New York, he had no past nor future so he decided to leave New York. On doing so he has a close encounter of the worst kind. An alien space craft takes him as a specimen, for their humaniod studies. Geof Brayden, (our hero's name) decided to resist the alien's request to aid them in their quest. For resisting, he was subjected to an ionic blast, which very nearly killed him. The aliens, thinking he was dead, dumped the body near a highway. The supposed body was found by a police patrol. The police dropped him off at a hospital. Brayden was immediatly put into the care of a D.r Richard Dempsy, surgeon. Dempsy realises that a change is taking place and tries to help him. In treating the body Dr. Dempsey increased his body metabolism by doing this, Brayden received tremendous powers.

These powers consisted of immense strength, the ability to fly, to construct a force-field at will and to emit a powerful beam from his eyes.

Although his body has been changed his mind appears to be unaffected. As he becomes aware of these powers, he vows (in true super-human tradition) never to use these powers against mankind.



While developing his awesome powers, Marvel Man hears of an incredible robot which towers thirty-five feet from the crumbling pavements upon which it walks. Very shortly Marvel Man's immaculate form rises into the air searching for a robot which to him is a terrible threat to lives and property. Following a path of broken sidewalks Marvel Man searching desperatly looks carefully until finally...

...he finds it...

and begins to wonder if he's made a big mistake!

takes offensive ACTION!

BEEP! BEEP!

Accidentally MM's foot triggers the robot's most sophisticated devices to which it..

DODGE! I'LL HAVE TO MEET HIS HAMMER HEAD ON

UH-OH! No TIME TO..

HAMMERFIST..

OR

OR THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH OF ME TO FILL AN INK WELL!

MARVEL-MAN

WHO WILL PREVAIL? CONTINUED NEXT ISH.

REVIEWS

FILM THINGS.

'Star Trek';The Motion Picture',as it is being called,is to be directed by academy award winner Robert-'The Day The Earth Stood Still'-Wise,from a screen play by Gene and Harold Livingstone and Alan DEAN Foster.All the original 'Star Trek' cast have signed up for this movie,which will be filmed in 70mm.The entire film has a budget of 15 million dollars,which is more than the whole 79 TV episodes cost.

The BBC,in association with America's NBC,is producing Ray Bradbury's "The Martian Chronicles" as a six hour mini-series for screening on TV later this winter.

At long last the two hour animated version of Tolkien's 'The Lord of The Rings',is set for cinematic release this autumn.The film was produced by Saul Zaentz and directed by Ralph Bakshi.

Universal are preparing a two hour telly-movie of 'Mandrake the Magician' (Who I hear you ask) Ed:He's a French cartoon strip character (Ta).

Despite the cancellation of the TV series,Logan keeps on running.This time he's in a new movie entitled 'Logan's World',to be filmed in Europe some time this year.The screenplay is by William F.Nolan,based on his book 'Logan's world'(What else?).Nolan has also come up with a third piece of inspired literary genius with the stunningly imaginative title 'Logan's search'.

Just when you thought that they thought that it was safe to go back into the water-"Jaws 3".

"The Clonemaster" is an American product which has got built obselescence.It con-cerns a scientist who creates a number of cloned doubles of himself (WOW!) and then dispatches them to different cities throughout the World as part of an experiment to see if the clones can live and functo in as part of present-day society.The wat I see it,if perfectly normal sociable human beings can't survive in this survive in this rat-race,I don't think a bunch of clones stand a chance.

Stephen Hooker 5K.

BOOK REVIEW

'The Visual Encyclopedia of Science Fiction' edited by Brian Ash (PAN 352 pages £5:50

An excellent book and a must for all science fiction fans.It contains chapters on science fiction classics such as 'Warfare and Weaponary' with an editorial by Harry Harrison,'Spacecraft and Star Drives';editorial by Poul Anderson,'Computers and Cyber-netics ',editorial by Arthur C.Clarke;'Religon and Myths' editorial by Philip Juse Farmer,the list is endless .You'll find all the greats in this book,other chapters deal with such things as'Fandom',S.F. art,S.F. in the cinema,books and anthologies and 'fr-inge cults'.I've only skimmed over the total contents of this book,but it does make good reading even to the non-science fiction enthusiast.A bit expensive,but if you have the money,buy it.

'Fade Out' by Patrick Tilley (SPHERE 95p)

This book ranks in my top ten, science fiction it may be but 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' it isn't.The book,in one way,shows how easily a government (American in this book) can cover certain things up,including the landing of a UFO.The UFO has an effect on the world communications system,which also includes radar screens.What Patrick Tilley does in the first twelve pages could almost cause World War three.

ETC.

From a souce that wishes to remain anonymous,we have received the following state--ments that appeared in an exam taken at a London college.All these statements were made by examinees.

Benjamin Franklin produced electricity by rubbing cats backwards.

There are three kinds of blood vessels;arteries,veins and caterpillars.

A thermometer is an instrument for raising temperature,

To remove air from a flask,fill quick with water,tip water out and put in cork quick.

A litre is a nest of young animals.

The Cuckoo doesn't lay its own eggs.

Typhoid fever may be prevented by castration.

An Axion is a thing that is so visible it is not necessary to see it.

A circle is a line which meets the other end without ending

An example of animal breeding is the farmer who mated the bull that gave a great deal of milk with a bull of good meat.

By self-pollination a farmer may get a flock of long-haired sheep.

A person should take a bath once in summer and not so often in winter.

For fainting,rub the person's chest,or if a lady rub the arm.

For fractures,to seeif the limb is broken,waggle it back and forth.

For nose bleeds,put the nose lower than the body

To remove dust from eye,pull eye over the nose.

For hedd colds,use an agoniser to spray the nose until it drops into your throat.

For snake bites,bleed the wound and rape the victim in a blanket.

For asphyxiation apply artificial respiration until the patient's dedad.

Blood flows down one leg and up the other.

Parrallel lines do not meet unless you bend them.

A magnet is something you find in a bad apple.

Geometry teaches us to bisex angels.

A super saturated solution is one that holds more than it can hold.

A vaccum is a U-tube with a flask at either end.

For a dog bite put the dog away for several days,if it has not recovered kill it.

Algebra was the wife of Euclid.

It is well known that a deceased body warps the mind.

Ed:recognise any?

BLENKINSOPS FEEBLE FABLES

Everybody is familiar with the fables of Aesop, but in this article we give exclusive facts about the hitherto unknown fables of Blenkinsop. Before I proceed any further, I will, as none of you will be familiar with this person's works, reproduce ~~xxx~~ in full the informative entry that will appear in the next edition of the Encyclopaedia Brittanica if I can sneak into their printing room tomorrow while they are out to lunch. (unfortunately the type-setting is so far advanced that it will be found somewhere between Xylophone and Zenophobia instead of in its rightful place ~~in-the-dustbin~~ between Bad breath and bunions.)

BLENKINSOP, Ferdinand Cedric, 1905-1955. An English fabulist. Having completed his schooling he came to London to find Fame and Fortune. Fame and Fortune were a couple of Jewish Tailors who had a business in the trend-setting area of Staines. Ferd (as he pref-erred to be called, and I won't tell you what his nickname was at school but it began with 'T' and rhymed with Ferd.) soon made his mark on the fashion scene, and also, unfortunately, on most of the suits, giving us a clue as to why the name of the shop was soon changed from to Staines Tailors to Stained Tailorg (the 'G' being due to a drunken signwriter). He was henceforth sacked and, after being turned down by all the major newspapers, (including the East Grinstead Guardian and Gazzette-need I say more?). He decided to become a freelance writer, but to his dismay found that nobody was reading freelances anymore and he therfore started writing articles instead. Being unable to make his living as a writer, partly due to the fact that he was illiterate, he moved to Manchester and stayed at no-fixed-abode where a plaque is erected in his honour, and began to tell fables after hearing that you could become a fabulist merely by relating your stories verbally. This he felt was his forte and it was well known that of an even-ing he would wax Eloquent for hours, and when he got tired they would switch places and Eloquent would wax him. He has since become, deservedly, the least known of all fabulists.

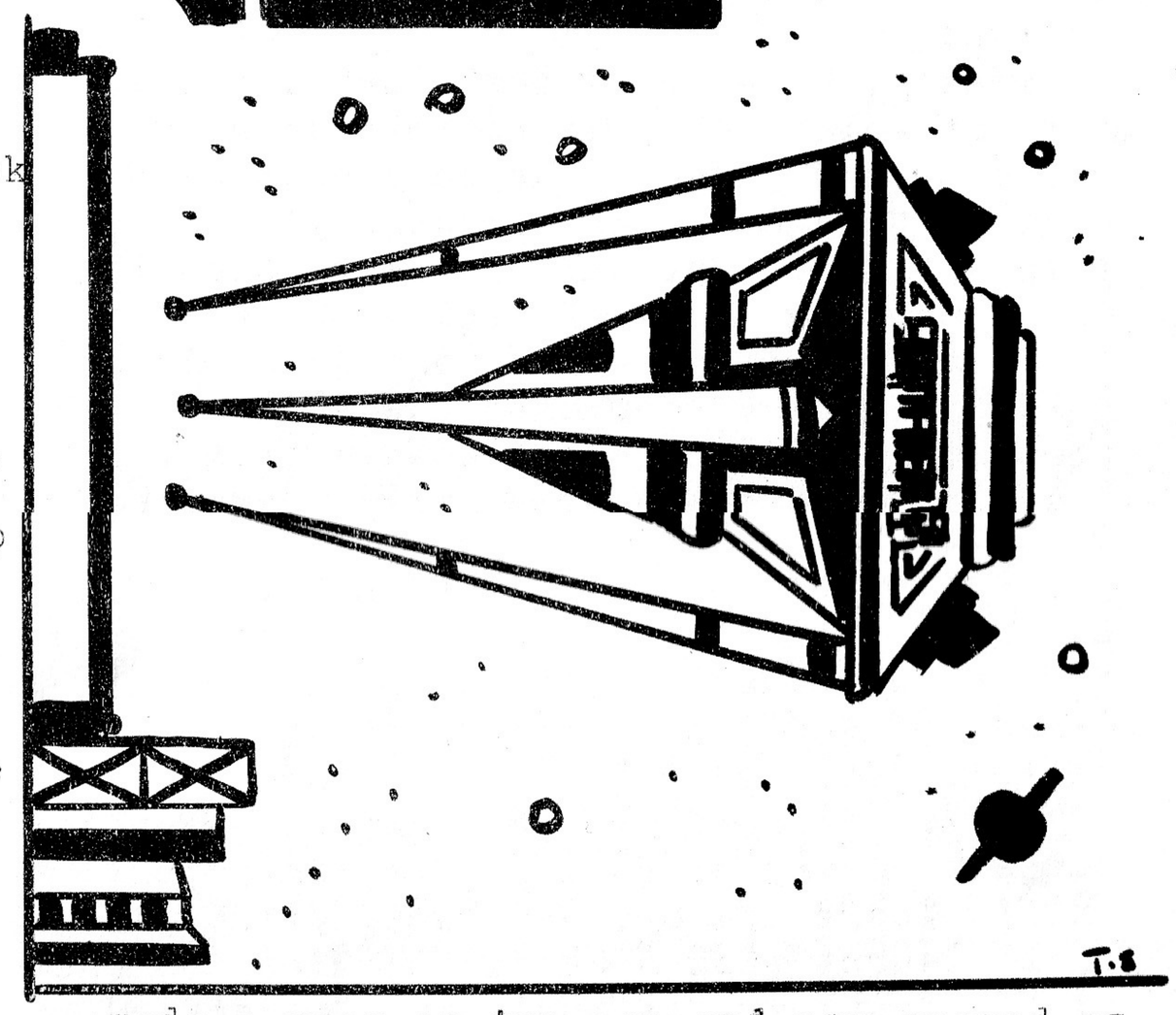
To say that Blenkinsop was different from other fabulists would be an understatement. If Aesop might have been fond of Brer Rabbit, Blenkinsop was more keen on medium-rare rabbit with ~~xxxxx~~ parsley and onioh stuffing. If Uncle Remus liked Zip-ah-dee-doo-dah, Blenkinsop prefered Zip-ah-phew-undo-dah due to a bladder complaint. While most fables are enjoyable for the young do not think that Blenkinsops are suitable for miners (Why not? There's a lot of filth down in the mines.) Oops, sorry I mean minors. I have been told that I cannot reproduce (I always knew that you were impotent) Let me finish... I have been told that I cannot reproduce any og his fables here either in full or in part (How about in English, I've still got it. Ed) because copies maybe in the hands of younger readers. I am certain, for example, that the brother of my Swedish pen-friend, Jumge Reeder, will receive a copy.

He spent his last few years in the Doldrums, a small region in Scotland, after being hit by a blizzard in the Trossacks (not a pretty sight) while searching for the site where Edward I took on Robert the Bruce and got his Bannocks Burnt. He died a sad and lonely man and I feel that it is my duty to raise this literary giant (he was 7'3") from local obscurity to international obscurity. So before you go to bed tonight spare a moment or two and think of this incredible man of whom Churchill said "Blenkinsop, who's he?".

Debate Page continued

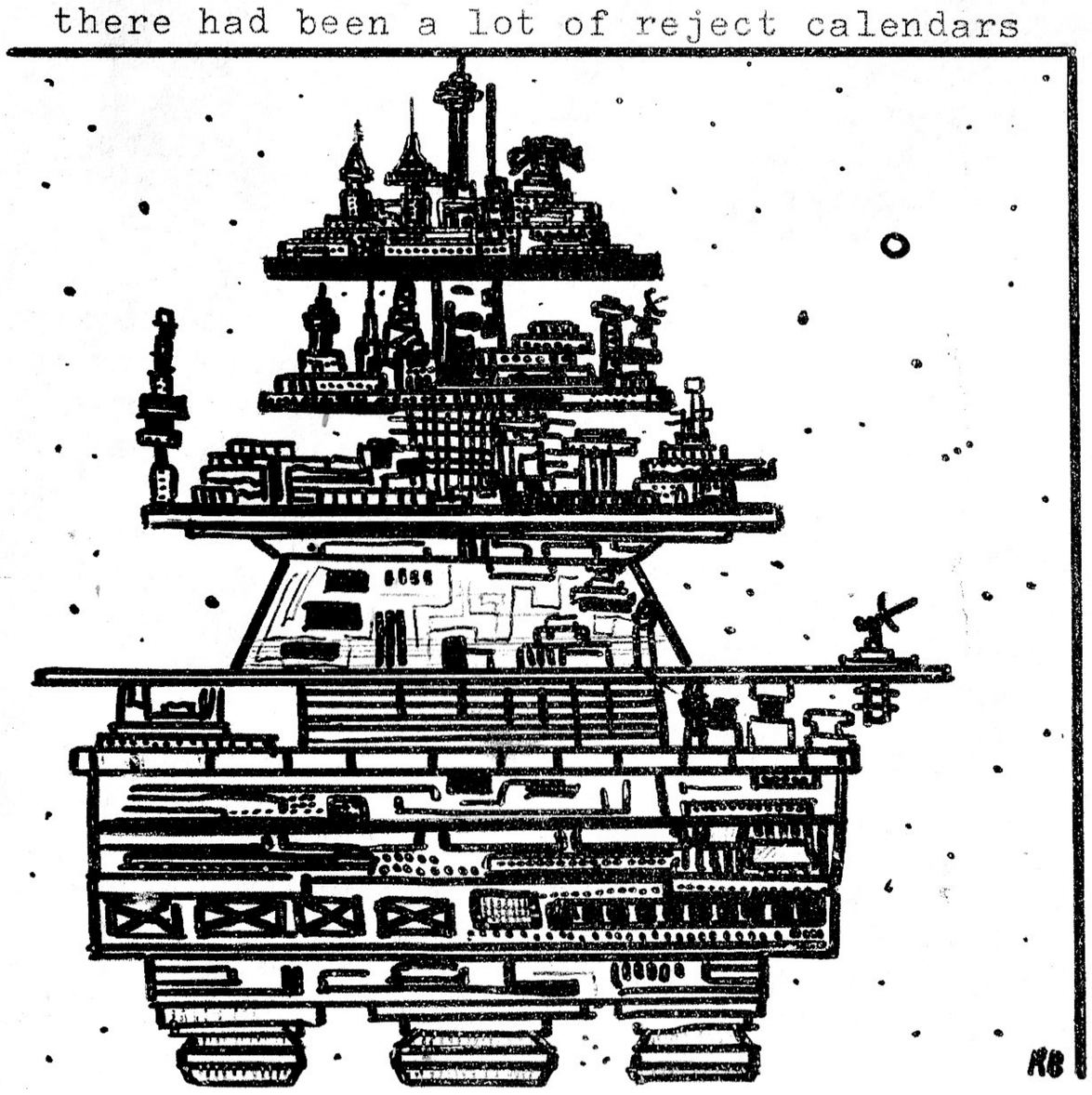
As suggested earlier in the paper, a study of the Bible and Christianity would not reflect a balanced syllabus. It is true to say, however, that if understanding in RS. is to be achieved, one must look in depth at the religious tradition of the school's own culture The syllabus must however, reflect the present secular and pluralistic society, in which we live. A general and realistic aim of RS. then, might be to explore the place and signific-ance of religon in human life and so to make a distinctive contribution to each pupil to search for a faith by which to live. It can now be seen that in the light of this kind of argument, the compulsory nature of RS. according to the 1944 Education Act falls away. The subject then begins to stand on its own merits when taught in a balanced way.

EXII



"You what? This ship was built to the highest standards of known technology."
Then he stood up and glanced at the black box on the wall, then at Sutton.
"Do you think it will work?"
"Worth a try"
"Okay"
"Just needs a good knock, thats all".
"Well, telecommunications officer Sutton, get on with your job."
With a slight, if forceful thumb the comp-uter's highly developed technology work-ed.
"Good Morning", the seductive voice of the female computer began. "I am your friendly computer, always at your service 24 hours a day, catering for your every need.
"Okay 'Putor" said the captain,
"Give me a status report"
"Good morning, I am your friendly comp-uter always at your service 24 hours a day catering for your.....
The captain groaned, muttered a few cosmic cataclysms and crawled into his bumk.
Before drawing his curtain he looked to-wards Sutton and said,
"Wake me up when we get there".

Monday 3Ist of February, which you know just cannot be. Well as a matter of fact there had been a lot of reject calendars made a year or two ago and now seemed as good a time asany to use them up.



"This is reporter Rex Havoc,"continued the newsblast, where you get the news from the spot on the spot".
He saw the camera fade out and then ~~pan~~ with some dismay he saw it pan onto Exod-us II.

"Well people, this is it, Exodus II the largest spaceship ever built by man. 25 miles wide, 80 miles long and more of a city than a spaceship. Its mission is to seed the universe, "The national anthem played somewhere in the background. "To seek out new life and go to where no man has gone before".

The whole population listened to Rex Havoc's mind stunnung, wonderfully, gut-churning, puke throwing, awful broadcast. Normally. perhaps you would stop for just a moment to think, nay, cast your thoughts and reflecton what could be at the edge of your known Solar System, but not the people of Exodus II, they were busy. Theere were 3 rapes in New York, a blizzard in London and the EIffel Tower collapsed in France.
"Yes people," Rex Havoc continued, "this is the ~~month~~ mammoth Exodus II, the care-fully selected crew are on the edge of forever."

By S. Hooker

DEBATE PAGE

Dear readers,

In answer to the comment at the foot of the 'debate page' of the last issue of Cactus, I feel that it falls on my shoulders to offer a little 'Food for Thought'

Firstly, however, I feel that I should correct a possible misunderstanding implied by the phrase 'subjects such as Rel-igious Studies to be compulsory'. In point of fact, the only subject which is compulsory by law is Religious Studies, and non other. Perhaps a more accurate phrase might be 'for subjects such as R.S. to be included on the timetable when....'.

I feel that the 'compulsory' nature of R.S. is an unnecessary red herring, and that this does an injustice to the subject. However, the situation does call for every boy in the school, by law, to receive a lesson of R.S. each week. I shall return to this point later.

'English' is quoted as being an essential subject worthy of having more time spent on it. There are certain basic principles to be learnt with specific English lessons, but a great part of English is concerned with practice. That practice is no less relevant in the context of R.S., Geog, Hist., etc.

To return to the basic question at hand 'Why do R.S.? I can only briefly touch on certain areas, but I shall attempt to offer some explanation on educational grounds.

R.I.? R.K., R.E., or R.S.? The title of the subject as far as the content reflects the title, is all important. At one time R.I. or R.K. would have signified Instruction or Knowledge of the Bible and the Christian Faith. In an educational establishment it would have been difficult to qualify this approach when so many pupils come froma secular home bachground. R.E. is a little more acceptable as it does suggest an attempt to educate in the nature of religion belief, rather than to indoctrinate. R.S. takes this a stage further and suggests a study in the nature of religion as well as religious belief.

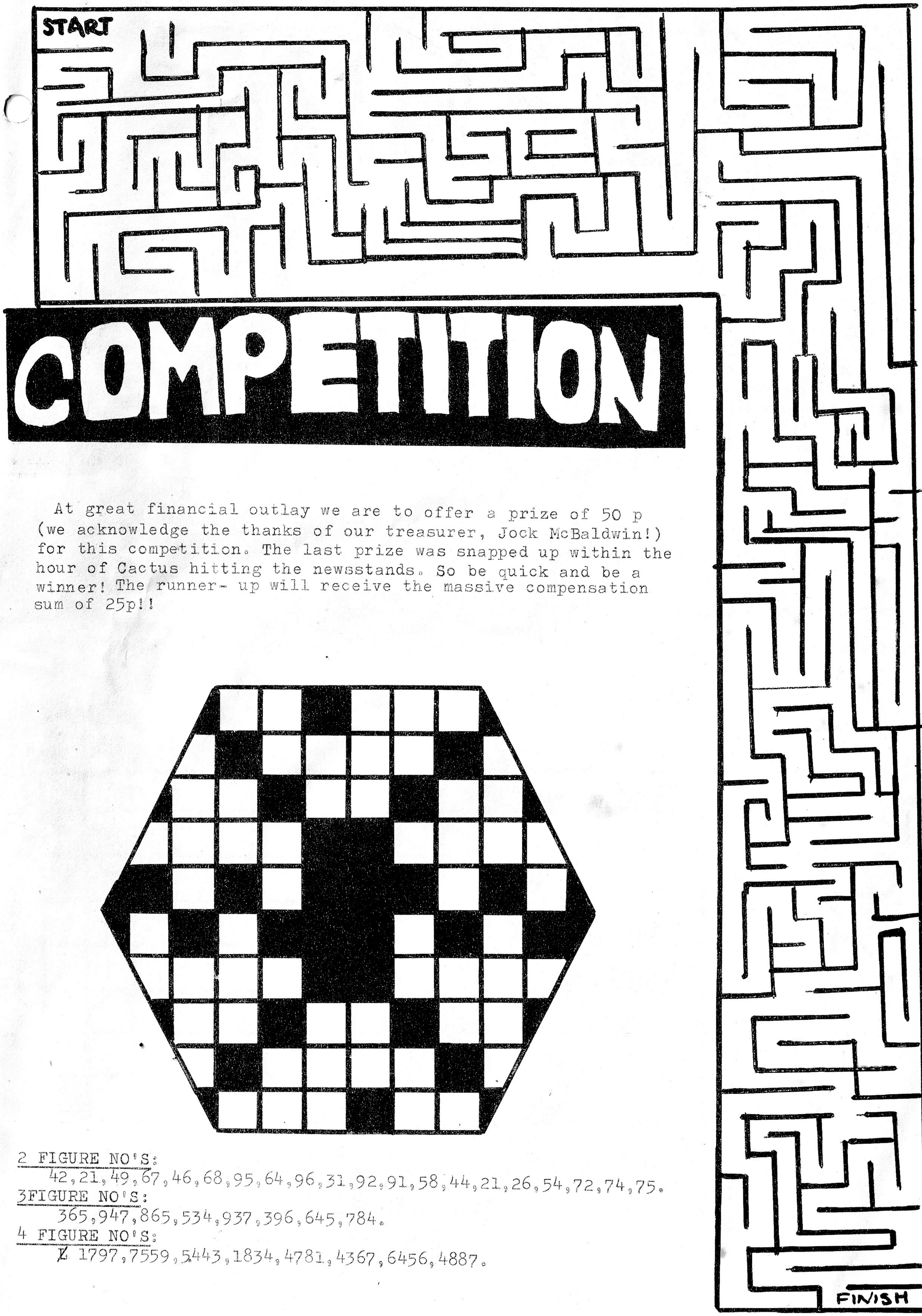
Various education reports from the Government have stated that 'No boy or girl can be seen as properly educated unless he or she has been made aware of the fact of the existence of a religious interpretation of life'. What lies behind this is an assumption ~~that~~ about the nature of man, about religion and about education. Man is a phenomenon, a complex structure of physical, emotional and physical characteisation. As such he cannot be understood simply in terms of his biolog-ical make-up. Man finds himself perplexed with the mystery of his existence. He knows that he is, but wonders why he is, what he is and what he is here for. He begins to look for a meaning and purpose to life, whicch represents the spir-itual dimension. Relligion then, will represent a pattern of belief and behav-iour related to the question of man's ultimate concern. Man seenms to have to find a faith to live by. Youngsters should have the opportunity to learn that religion is a feature of this, and that for some it is a deeply significant area of knowledge and experience.

The question which was now presents itself is whether this should be provided in an educational process, and why not simply in religious organisations or in the home? Here I would distinguish between training and education. 'An educated person' is one who has achieved something more than the mastery of a craft or skill. Further, education is concerned with the 'whole man', education is for growth and for self-fulfilment. On the strength of this argument I would suggest that R.S. has its place in an educational process.

In some respects education is a process of initiation. It is the teachers' task to initiate the young into bodies of knowledge, activities, ways of thinking and conduct believed in society, to be worthwhile. Thus education implies standards, and consists of initiating others into activities, ways of behaving and thinking which have inbuilt standards by reference to which it is possible to act, think and feel with varying degrees of skill, reverence and taste. If educat-ion is to be seen as this, it can reason-ably argued that public religious trad-itions are counted as worthwhile by soc-iety. This process will involve rigorous thought and study, for this is the only way in which one can master the language of any form of thought. The development of religious appreciation and understand-ing will involve the study of texts, worship, social and ethical teaching.

R.S. has a place on the timetable because it draws attention to a significant area of human thought and activity. To exclude religion is to suggest that it does not and never did play a part in mens' lives. Something would be lost if R.S. did not appear on the timetable.

Continued on page 8.....



COMPETITION

At great financial outlay we are to offer a prize of 50 p (we acknowledge the thanks of our treasurer, Jock McBaldwin!) for this competition. The last prize was snapped up within the hour of Cactus hitting the newsstands. So be quick and be a winner! The runner- up will receive the massive compensation sum of 25p!!

2 FIGURE NO'S:
42, 21, 49, 67, 46, 68, 95, 64, 96, 31, 92, 91, 58, 44, 21, 26, 54, 72, 74, 75.

3FIGURE NO'S:
365, 947, 865, 534, 937, 396, 645, 784.

4 FIGURE NO'S:
1797, 7559, 5443, 1834, 4781, 4367, 6456, 4887.

SPORT

JUDO.

Judo is one of thr most popular pastimes and sport.Childern can take up the sport at the age of six as juniors until they are sixteen,the junerx grading system is white,yellow,orange,green,blue and finaly brown,when the pupil gets to this stage at the age of sixteen they then become 'esquires' until the age of eighteen. At the age of eighteen they become seniors, the senior grading system is; Kyu, sixth Kyu = white belt, fith Kyu = yellow belt, fourth Kyu = orange belt, third Kyu= green belt ,second Kyu = blue belt and first Kyu = brown belt. After the Kyus comes Dan or Master grades; from first to fifth dan is a black belt, from sixth to eighth dan is a red and white striped belt, nineth to eleventh dan a red belt and twelth dan is a white belt. The judo outfit consists of a twill jacket, belt and trousers. The jacket is long and loose fitting with sleeves reaching just below the elbows. The belt is eight feet long and goes twice around the body.It is secured by a special knot called a Box knot.The trousers are secured by a tape tied in a bow at the front. The first method learnt is that of the 'breakfall'.The meaning of this is quite literaly to break your fall by slaming the side of your forearm down just as you hit the mat at xxx an angle of about thirty to fourty degrees,this is to prevent any part of the body hitting the mat with any particular force.The next thing you learn is balance, to keep balance and to force your xxxxxxx oppent off balance so that you can throw him or her xxxxy easily down.The next things learnt are Tai-Otoshi thehand throw or body drop.To do Tai-Otoshi you have to balance on your right foot which is yeu ext--ended beyond your opponents right foot.When you have both your ffeet on either side of your opponent's,you pull with your left arm and pulxsh with your right arm.If it doesn8t work the first time the throw can be repeated time and time again.

CONTINUED NEXT EDITION.

