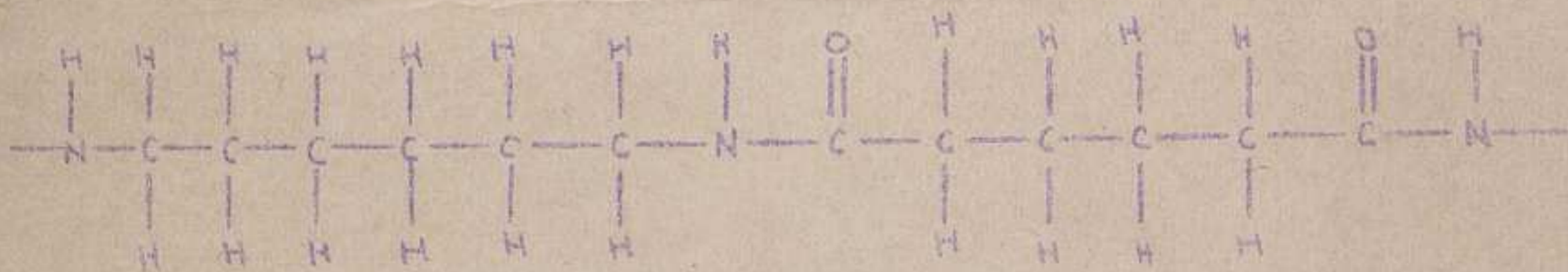


NUMBER 1

Psi → Phi



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JANUARY 1959

PSI-PHI

VOLUME ONE

JANUARY 1959

NUMBER ONE

the line-up:

BLob-Torial	---	page 3
--by Bob Lichtman		
LA PETITE VANPE (short story)	---	page 6
--by Bob Lichtman		
MAD MUSINGS (Article/editorial)	---	page 7
--by Arv Underman		
TREACLE (fanzine reviews)	---	page 9
--by Bob Lichtman		

art debits:

Cover:	Arv Underman
Page three:	Bob Lichtman
Page five:	Bob Lichtman

addresses:

We have three addresses at the present time, which should serve to confuse you. They are:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| (1) PSI-PHI PUBLICATIONS
c/o Bob Lichtman
P.O. Box 4152
Inglewood, California | (2) PSI-PHI PUBLICATIONS
c/o Arv Underman
5104 Sherbourne Avenue
Los Angeles 36, Calif. | (3) PSI PHI PUBLICATIONS
c/o B.b Lichtman
6137 S. Croft Ave.
L. A. 36, Calif. |
|--|--|--|

Instructions: send all fanzines to either one of the first two. Send letters of comment, articles, fiction, artwork, etc. to any one. Take your choice.

The first address is until the end of the year only. I haven't made up my mind to continue it or not. Boxes cost.

*** NEXT ISSUE OUT ABOUT MARCH 1, 1959 ***

DL OP - I orial / Bob Lichtman

This is the first issue of a new fan publication which goes by the unusual name of PSI-PHI. The co-editors of this zine are Bob Lichtman (speaking) and Art Underman (you'll meet him later on). PSI-PHI goes out every other month to the ~~unlucky~~ lucky people who are, for some reason or another, on our mailing list. Others may receive it for the price of ten cents (cheap) per issue. If you are too lazy to send 10¢ every time, we have a special deal. You can get a six-issue sub for only 50¢, which means you only pay 8 1/3 ¢ per issue or get an issue free, whichever way you look at it. Subscriptions help us to pay for stamps for the people who get PSI-PHI for free.

There is quite a story connected with the name, PSI-PHI. Probably it will bore you no end, but I am going to tell it anyway.

The whole affair started back last September. I was all enthused about the idea of putting out a fanzine of my own, but was unable to think of a good title for it. For days at a time, I wracked my brains trying to think of a name that was suitable. Discouraged, I finally gave up. I went to my mag collection and pulled out one. Sat down and started reading. The story was on psi and right in the middle of it, I thought of PSI-PHI. I never have finished the story. I just dropped the mag and sat there, realizing that now I had a title.

Came now the problem of getting a means of production. At first a thought occurred in my mind that I might buy a Ditto Machine. A look at the price of same jarred that idea from its birth place. A mimeo seemed the thing to get. I used mimeo, I amended, after seeing the prices of new mimeos. I started saving towards it (I gave up in a few weeks with the realization that I'd never get up that much money).

In the meantime I had indoctrinated a friend of mine, Don Durward (who, incidentally, plans to start his own zine soon), into actifandom. He told me one day that there was a mimeo at the place where he worked and I casually suggested that we put out a zine together, and I suggested the name PSI-PHI. We planned on putting out a zine of about 24 pages with sub rates of 15¢, 4/50¢. A round of the stationery shops informed us that it would cost about ten dollars to put out a zine of the size we wanted. A trip to the post office told us that it would cost about five dollars for stamps. That came out to about \$7.50 each, and we started saving toward that goal.

That was in October. By the middle of November I had saved all of two dollars and was starting to lean toward the idea of putting out a solo job again. I made another trip to the stationery store and priced a hektograph. It was reasonable



BLub

enough so I decided to buy one in a few weeks. I went happily homeward.

There I embroiled myself in plans. I decided to make it a 6-page zine and just send it out to a group of faneds, BNF's and personal friends. All I would need would be about 300 sheets of paper and a half-dozen hekto stencils. This plus the stamps would cost me only about \$5.

Then the doorbell rang. It was Arv and he had come to show me the pb he had bought downtown. He told me of the huge piles of sf mags at the bookshops downtown and I asked him if he had seen some 1951 Galaxys that I needed to complete my collection through 1955. He wasn't sure, he replied. I told him about the fanzine I was planning.

I nearly keeled over when he said that he had a spiridaper up at his house and that he could supply all the paper and stencils we could use for a long time. I asked him if he'd like to be co-editor with me and he said yes. He said that he would design the cover and as you can see, he did a really good job of that. He said that he would write an article for the first issue too, and it turned out to be Mad Musings, which appears on page seven. We went up to his house and he showed me the paper. It was an assortment of several different types. There was some rough heavy paper, some coated on one side paper, and some coated on both sides paper. The stuff is quite heavy and very expensive, I guess. Anyway, as you can feel, we used it.

We decided on ten pages for our first issue (this one) and after a small argument by Arv that we should think of a better title, decided to call it PSI-PHI. Arv has written an editorial-article on science-fiction movies. I haven't read it yet but I'll say that I'm in agreement with most everything he said.

As for me, everything else in this is my creation. I am somewhat more fannish than Arv and my work shows it, I think. I have created a short horror fairy-tale as this issue's fiction offering. In addition, the fanzines are re-viewed by me on page nine. I don't think that I'm an especially good reviewer, but maybe you think differently. Let me know.

With the exception of the cover, all the artwork in the magazine is by me. Arv did the cover, as I've already mentioned. I'm not really too versatile an artist, my range limited to odd-looking BEMs as on page 3 and horrid faces as on page 5. I sign my artwork "BLOB", for everyone's enlightenment. If anyone actually thinks my artwork is good, and would like some for his own zine, I'll be glad to oblige for free issues.

So much for that...

* * * * *

Now it is necessary that I spend a few paragraphs on our policy. You know, the way things are run here at PSI-PHI Pubs. If everything up to now has failed to bore you, this will make up for it tenfold.

Let me now impress upon you that we are somewhat desperately soliciting contributions. These can be in the form of letters, artwork, short fiction, and

short articles. Let me elaborate on each point.

Letters. These can be on any subject; WSFS, Anti-WSFS, congratulations, condemnations, just plain letters-of-comment, or change-of-address notices. (Incidentally, when you change your address let us know so that we can send PSI-PHI to you without an interruption in service.) The best letters will be printed in our as-yet-unnamed letter section, which will commence in PSI-PHI #2. If you do not wish your letter to appear in the letter, mark it plainly with a DNG in capital letters, which means "Do Not Quote!".

Artwork should be of the simple line type such as ATom does so well.

(Hint, hint) All artwork should be on light paper in black ink, preferably. Unacceptable artwork will be returned if the artist desires. Let us know when you send it in.



BLob

Short fiction is what we would like the most of. Fantasy is preferred but good sf will be printed if it meets the "BLob-Test". Which simply means, I have to like it. Please type your manuscripts legibly, on one side of the sheet. All unacceptable mss. will be returned, unless author doesn't want it back. Please indicate.

Articles may be on any subject. It doesn't matter if the subject is sf-al or not, so long as it passes the "BLob-Test". Type manuscripts on one side of paper. Same deal applies as for fiction.

Please try to restrict your mss. to under 1500 words. This is about 3 typed pages without illoes and just the right size for the bigger issues we have planned for the future. If you want your story or article to appear under a pseudonym for some reason, let us know what it is and we promise not to reveal your identity to anyone. Unless, of course, you want us to do so later.

For the information of potential advertisers, we do take ads. Rates for same appear on page two. These rates must be paid for in advance of publication and are for one installment only. We are giving no discount for more than one installment because we are already charging less than the ad-zines do. The ads mainly pay for stamps.

A word of caution; we assume no responsibility for your advertisement except that it will be reproduced as accurately as possible. Legibility on submitted copy is much appreciated; we suggest that you type. We accept no already-cut stencils and no already-printed sheets for insertion. It confuses our numbering system too much, and we are too lazy to print up cut stencils. Besides, we only can use one type of stencil on our duper.

Ads may be stuck in anyplace; on the back cover, in the middle of a story or article stuck in a box, or on a separate page. You pays your money, and you takes your chances.

B.L.

* actually page 8

"La Petite Vampire"

A SHORT-SHORT STORY

BY: BOB LICHTMAN

AS ALL GOOD FAIRY TALES MUST BEGIN, SO DOES THIS BEGIN:

Once upon a time, there was this cute little vampire. She had the most beautiful gray skin, and the whitest teeth. I meant to say, fangs. She was of a very fine family (in life) and naturally, she would indulge herself only in blue blood. She drank it with a golden straw, as was the style for vampires of her social standing.

During the hours of the day, she rested in a fine marble coffin with an elegant padded satin lining. This item of finery was located in the exclusive section of a very expensive cemetery.

At night, she would daintily lift the lid of her coffin and would go out to supper. In the morning, she would return, satiated, to sleep.

But with all her luxuries, this poor little vampiress (or vampire for short) didn't go steady with any of the boy vampires of her social standing. This was only because she hadn't chanced to meet any when she went out to dinner.

However, this was remedied one night when she ran into the most handsome boy vampire. It was love at first sight, to quote an old saying.

They had a whirlwind courtship. They would ^{page} sit together in the moonlight and sip Type O together. Very romantic, indeed.

Soon they got married and of course:

AS ALL GOOD FAIRY TALES MUST END, SO DOES THIS END:

They died happily ever after.....



MAD MUSINGS

by Arv Underman

((Since I am typing this on master for Herr Underman, I will enclose my own comments in parentheses such as the ones used before and after this preface. I can see where Arv will be typing his own editorials before long, but I had to have fevenge for crack he makes in first paragraph about me. Haaah!))
((-Bob))

*

*

* I CAN'T DO A DARN THING
MYSELF, GEEZ HE THINKS
HE'S GODS
GIFT TO
LITERATURE
A.E.U.

This being our first edition, naturally there isn't too much to write about. Let me add also that we need contributions to boost the sheet out of a hick ten-page class. ((But I already said that.)) We also want you to criticize. We'll do as we damn please but maybe it'll prevent someone's psychosis from forming. ((What bhig words this guy uses.)) At this point my communication might be broing, but my partner in this venture needs my duplicator and paper ((And how!)) so I get this section. I might add that Sci-Fi is not my first love. I have only 200 books in my collectio n to my cohort's 500. ((But I only have 350 books and mags.)) But sitting down to my hi-fi with a good Kenton record and an edition of Rabelais or some such is. ((Kenton? Rabelais? Me, I prefer R & B and fanzines.))

Next item I wish to bring up is the appalling trash (on a whole) that Hollywood has been turning out under the science-fiction label. It smells of an acrid stench and can best be described politely ((?)) as the excrement of human kine ((Mmmph!)) or vulgarly as crap ((I agree.)) Evidently the powers that be in Hollywood figure a good sf story consists of a young scientist, a well-exposed ((He doesn't mean the film.)) young starlet, who is even more exposed in her throes with a rootin' tootin' rip-snort'n' monster, and le voila, science-fiction movie.

Two main plots dominate, the first being the Invasion-of-Earth type, with it's metal and plastic monsters of uncanny intelligence. Then a brilliant young scientist ((Andy Young??)), (not old enough to be through the rigors of a formal education), or a very old buzzard with his colleagues, shows "Man's Unlimited Prowess Over All Things", although five times better than in reality. And the story ends ridiculously happily ever after.

The second is of a completely different type where superior man gets himself in one helluva mess by his own superiority. This concept is so "original", it is absolutely unbelievable. I must say that it takes a truly sharp-witted writer to devise it but then again maybe I am only half-right. Well anyway, through atomic mutation, electron-mesmerizing-proton-neutralizer or something, a mutem is born. Most popular are the huge specimens of Arachnidae and Insectae, but of course nobody informed the writer that an Arthropod's breathing apparatus is usually not effective enough to support itself in a larger size, and if increased to this size, it would probably suffocate. ((Of course.)) But in a nutshell the day is again saved and all is well.

God ((Ghod)) only knows how any writer with a sense of respect can turn

out such gook. But who am I? I'm not making \$25,000 a year for writing anything and they are. Let me ask you again for contributions. Afterall I can't write trash like this forever just to fill space...

all

((That wasn't so bad, methinks. What thinks you, reader? Anyone for a good fight? Sit down and start punching. On the typer keys, o' course.))

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

AD RATES

Following are the rates for advertisements in PSI-PHI. All rates are for one insertion only. The editors of this zine assume no responsibility for the ads outside of reasonable accuracy and readable reproduction. No refunds. Send your money with your ad copy to Address Number One on page two. Legibility is much appreciated.

Full Page - - - - -	\$1.25
Half Page - - - - -	.75
Quarter Page - - - - -	.40
One column inch (1" x 4 1/8") - - -	.15

There are no rates listed for ready stencils and ready pages because we won't make any. Tough, but that's the way it's going to be.

-BLOB

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

PRODUCTION NOTES:

As this is the last stencil to be cut, and since I have some extra space to fill, this is as good a way as any to fill it.

You have noted by now that we are printing on one side of the paper only. This is due the different grades of paper we are using. Some of it will print on both sides, but it is in the minority. So, rather than wait several days, we are printing this way. It'll cost us on the stamps but it's worth it.

Next issue will be out about March 1, 1959 and should be 16 pages long. It will also be printed on both sides of the paper because we are going to get a stock of this high-quality coated-on-both-sides paper such as you find in school annuals. Expensive stuff, but nothing but the best for PSI-PHI.

As I write this, we have already run off three of the pages. We have discovered some important things to be put into play next time. Such as:

1. Start your stencils further down from the top end and them higher from the bottom.
2. Rough paper does not a good copy make.
3. Hand-feeding a spiritduper isn't as bad as it was presumed to be. It's worse.

Since we've only mentioned it about three or so times already, I might as well repeat. Send contributions to us. Letters, artwork, ass., anything.

And I believe I've reached the end of my stencil... Bye, Y'all.

TREACLE: Fanzine Reviews by Bob Lichtman

This time I have only 5 zines to review. At the time of writing they are the latest issues, but I suspect that several of them will be out of date by the time you read this.

Which brings me to my plea for fanzines to review. There are about 50 faneds on our mailing list. If all of you will trade reviews and zines with us, we can have a really good column here. If you are interested, send your publication to the special address on page 2 of this. Now, on to this month's reviews.

TWIG #12; from Guy Terwilleger, 1412 Albright St., Boise, Idaho. 15¢.

This, dated Oct-10, is Guy's second anniversary, and contains a special, "The Inner Twig", in which there is an announcement that BoF-58 is now being prepared. Also in ~~XXXXX~~ "The Inner Twig" is fanzine reviews, a special Solacon report by Honey Wood, and an inadequate 3 pps. of letters.

The rest of the ish is composed of stories ranging from good to cruddy. Not enough room to go into detail here. Altogether 48 pages, worth getting. Cover like wow!

VAMPIRE TRADER #s 9 & 10 combined; from Stoney Barnes, Rt. 1, Box 1102, Grants Pass, Ore. 10¢ per copy (this double ish is 10¢ too.)

Only 8 pages this time, even if it is a double issue. The cover, entitled "The Devil's Disciple" is by Prosser, ghod. Unfortunately can't say the same for the rest of the issue. 3 pages of ads this time, and then there is a unique type of fanzine review by John Mussels. He is attempting to review a fanzine in its entirety, from firstish to latest. If he weren't so nasty in his review of SATA, I might like the idea, but the way he's doing it, I don't. Next time, Barnes informs, BRILLIG gets it.

OOPSLA #25; from Gregg Calkins, 1714 South 15th East, Salt Lake City, Utah. 15¢ per copy.

Finally, after 8 months of silence, Calkins comes through with another zine, and I must say that it was well worth waiting for. Articles (all good) by Bloch, Willis, Berry, and Morse, plus 9 pages of letters, and Calkin's editorial. I'd like to go into more detail but am running out of space. Just don't miss this one, and be sure to read Willis' Harp. The best thing in the issue is Wan's story of Hector Q. Drainingboard, BNP on page 2 of the Harp.

RETRIBUTION #11; from John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Ave., Belmont, Belfast, Northern Ireland. 15¢ Per copy.

Not as good as REP (some say RETCH) is usually, due to ATOM's gaffiation. Better now Art, I hope? Nearly all the illoes are by Berry with the exception of some Rotsler Dems here and there.

* * * * *
COVER: Nylon 66 molecules with the carbons & hydrogens & nitrogens with covalent bonds and the oxygens : carbons sharing co-ordinate co-valent bonds.So What!!!

THIS HAS BEEN YOUR CHEMISTRY LESSON FOR TODAY.

As for the material, there are good non-GDA articles by Harry Warner, John Berry, and a fair one by Sandy Sanderson. John also comes through with "Nocturnal Mission", a GDA-type story, which is surpassed in every way by "Per Ardua ad Aqua", a story by Gary Diendorfer, the GDA Port Authority.

John presents the solution to "The Case of the Potential G:fiate" that he had in RET #10, and gives the details to "The Case of the Antagonistic Contentioneers". You are supposed to answer a question posed at the end of the case and send it to John. The first one with the correct answer will be "the happy recipient of a GDA stefnik surprise parcel".

There are fanzine reviews by Ethel Lindsay, which are excellent, but not enough of them. Only three zines reviewed. (I should talk.)

John announces that a one-shot -- "The Compleat F:gan" -- is forthcoming and I have sent for it. I'll review it here when I get it. By the way, it's 35¢ per copy.

CRY OF THE NAMELESS #121 (Nov. 1958); from Box 92, 920 3rd Avenue, Seattle 4, Washington. 25¢ per copy, 5/\$1.00, 12/\$2.00.

Fandom's best monthly. This has double foto-covers of fans, pictures taken at the recent Solacon. Frightening!!

CRU'speak editorial informs that the "Bring Berry to Detroit" Fund is off to a good start. Those interested in bringing John to the Detention should mail their contributions to Bill Rickhardt, 21175 Goldsmith, Farmington, Michigan. I intend to do same later in year, but not now.

R. Pemberton's prozine review col interesting as always. Funny, considering that I've read only a small percentage of the stories he reviews. Holocaust has a cartoon series on the same pages as Pemby's column and all I can say is: It's Funneeeee!!!

At first it was thought that Carl Brandon was a hoax and didn't really exist, now it seems that he does because this time the Fanzine review column is by him. A good job too, Carl; I trust you're reading this.

Weber's conreport of the Solacon good. GOOD, I mean. I have been looking all over for a propeller beanie like he describes but they are not to be had. Help, somebody.

Pages 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ & 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ are Solacon incidents by some of the Nameless and otherwise that attended. Mildly interesting.

Raybin writes "Who's Who In The WSFS" and this led me only to greater confusion than before on this matter. If I seems confused on this matter tho, it is nothing to Raybin's apparent (& admitted) confusion. Hamph!

A fair Berry story called "I Met A Witch". No comment.

Comes now two good short stories, "The Domestic Suburbanites" and "Herbie", by W. Marland Frenzel and F.C. Purvis respectively. Good pseudonyms too.

Gerber reviews books. Not too competently tho. That means that I didn't agree with him.

Everyone will be interested to know that the immortal Bard has become a CRY letterhack. I wasn't.

19 pages of letters under the watchful blue pencil of Elinor. She didn't print my letter tho. Yaarrgh!

Kent Moomaw is dead, says page 44. Are you reading this, ol' Kent? Goot. Now give it back to Mammie so she can send it back with a sad note.

That's all this. Send zines, letters, artwork, fiction, articles, etc. to proper addresses. See page two.....

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

-- the editors

PSI-PHI PUBLICATIONS

c/o Bob Lichtman
6137 South Croft Avenue
Los Angeles 56, Calif.

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no. 1 - - - jan. 1959

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