

TP68

ARCHIVES
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

TP 68

AUTUMN 1952

PRICE: TEN CENTS



Pat

In this issue: FORMULISM (Avant-garde
Littérature), a new philosophy
from Caltech.

PIT

AUTUMN 1952
UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE
LITERARY MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED!!!

Rejected by the Library of Congress, 1952

EDITORIAL BOARD

(Names Withheld on Request)

*

Address correspondence to:

PIT
Box 75, Throop Hall
Campus

(Deposit in any on campus mailbox)

CONTENTS

Norman Rockwell	Cover Design
Charles Dickens	A Christmas Carol
Millikan, Roller, and Watson	Mechanics, Molecular Physics, Heat, and Sound
Robert Louis Stevenson	Treasure Island
Foster Strong	Campus Brewins
Igor Stravinsky	Petrouchka
Leo Tolstoy	War and Peace (un- abridged)
The Sage	Handbook of Chemistry and Physics

FOREWORD

This is a humor magazine. Although the main purpose of PIT is to make fun, especially of ourselves, this is one page that must be serious.

We feel that on this campus there is a vacuum in the field of humorous writing. Whether or not this magazine will fill that vacuum is yours to determine. Less important than the merits of this first issue are its potentialities for future development.

This magazine will be either a success or a failure. In either case it is desirable that we, the editors, remain anonymous for the first issue. Should PIT meet with approval, we shall crawl out of our holes; and should it be a failure, this anonymity may well save our necks.

We urge you to give us your suggestions and manuscripts.

THE EDITORS

POMES

By JEAN COCTAIL

Pomes is corny,
They ain't no fun.
Don't give no pleasure
To anyone.

I'd rather go 'ta movie
Or see a football game
Than hear a mess of poetry
Read by a dame.

But one good thing 'bout pomes
You just gotta say--
They really teach a guy
To speak English O.K.

FORMULISM

A New Philosophy from Caltech

(Avant-Garde Litterature)

Prepared and translated from the original
Figlatin by MARIO STANZA, helplessly;
that is, without anyone's help

An exciting new philosophy has been born on the left-smog-bank in the heart of the gay city of Pasadena. Formulism, an engrossing innovation in literature and allied arts, has been sweeping over the campus of the world famed California Institute of Technology; and seems destined to spread to all parts of the nation. It is with this in mind that I now present the basic concepts of Formulism so as to give you an inside track when the philosophy hits the public.

Formulism itself is a new idea which requires that each symbol in its literary works represent a separate unit by itself. Tone and beauty of form are all that are important in the sound of this language of art--Formulism.

Early attempts at Formulism go much farther back than the philosophy itself. One of the first examples, a notable success, was the following work from the Caltech campus:

EX
EX
EX dx
EX dx dx
EX dx dx
EX
EX
EX dx
Slide rule
Tech, Tech, Tech, Tech, Tech.

With the exception of the last two lines, which make no sense at all, this is a perfect example of Formulism.

AU CINEMA

When it comes to the cinema, Formulism is the newest thing. Naturally there are no whole people on the screen during any of the Formulist movies. This is considered taking the easy way out. Creative effort is emphasized in the movies. The following is a scenario from one of the earlier movies, Baguettes de Tambour du Dindon Premier, Drumsticks of the First Turkey.

BAGUETTES DE TAMBOUR DU DINDON PREMIER

IMAGE.

In the middle of the screen a Venus's-fly-trap opens and closes in time with the Formulist poem which follows. In the upper right and lower left, two hands appear, waving goodbye to each other--also in time to the poetry.

Through the whole screen a huge sine curve flows gently by, with due regard for the poetical meter. This gives the distinct impression of quietness and solitude combined with just a dash of boredom.

SOUND.

This Formulist poem is read in a slow, easy tempo as indicated.

π	r^2	x	dx	dx	dx	(With strict
λ	λ	λ	c			rhythm. Each
γ	γ	γ	λ			accented syl-
γ	λ	γ	λ			lable comes at
γ	γ	γ	E			the peak of a
E	E	E	m			sine wave)
E	m	E	m			
E	$=$	m				
E	$=$	m				
E	$=$	mc^2	c^2	c^2		
E	$=$	mc^2	c^2			
E	$=$	mc^2				
(1	+	s	+	s	+	s)
(1	+	s	+	s	+	t)
T	+	s	+	s	+	s
t	+	t	+	t	+	t.
A	a	a!				
a	a!	a				
a	ab	ab	ab			
a	ab	ab	cd			
ab	cd	ef	gh			
gh	gh	gh	gh.			
$\frac{a}{b}$		$\frac{a}{b}$				
$\frac{a}{c}$		$\frac{a}{b}$				
$\frac{c}{d}$		$\frac{b}{e}$				

μ μ μ μ
 b \neq \neq \neq
 b \neq \neq d
 a : b as c : d

Doesn't this give you an easy-going, languid sensation? But now comes the excitement!

IMAGE.

The sine curve becomes garbled and fuzzy and emerges seconds later as a cosine curve!! The peace and serenity of the scene is again broken by a swarm of wasps which enters the picture from the right upper corner. The Venus's-fly-trap tries vainly to catch these insects and in so doing develops a terrible neurosis and goes berserk. It uproots itself and races about the screen after the two hands which are now covered with bee stings. The whole scene is accompanied by the following Formulist poetry.

SOUND.

As bees enter:

CHORUS:

z	z	z	z	(Quickly and somewhat gutturally)
z	z	zx	zx	
dx	dx	dx	dx	(Sharp and short as marching soldiers)
dx	dx	dx	dx	
H ₂ O ₂ O ₂ O				(Note that Formulism is not limited to math symbols alone)
H ₂ O	0	0	0	

Uranium!!!

(Loud and explosive.
At this point the
Venus's-flytrap up-
roots itself)

SOLO:

Very fast:

Δ Δ Δ χ

α α α π

(Notice the rhyme
here. Very unus-
ual in Formulist
poetry)

ADDING MORE VOICES ON EACH SYMBOL:

dx dx dx dx dx dx (Louder to a
dx dx dx dx dx dx climax)

2,3-dimethyl-7-oxabicyclo-(2,2,1)heptane-
2,3-dicarboxylic anhydride!!!

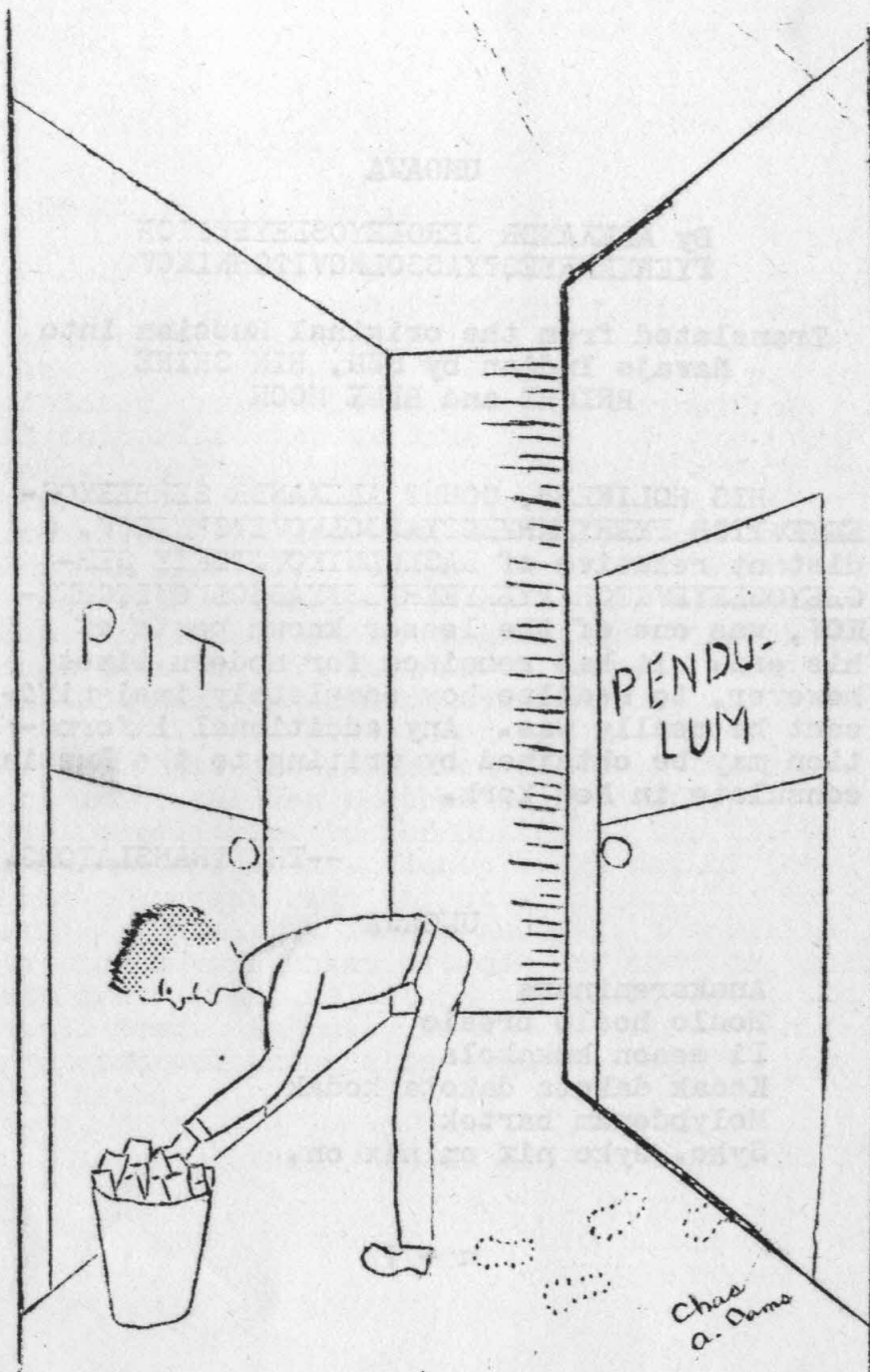
(Very loud and fast;

in one quick breath. At this, everything on
the screen drops limp and dead)

IMAGE AND SOUND.

The sound is the first verse repeated
over again and the image is similar to the
original only that the Venus's-flytrap opens
and closes on the peak of every other sine
wave and the hands wave twice as fast. This
symbolism indicates that all returns to its
original state of life, with only small
changes, in spite of minor interruptions.

Modesty prevents me from going any fur-
ther with this scenario, but if any readers
are particularly interested in it, just send
\$10.00 in stamps to MARIO STANZA, % Napa
Institution for the Mentally Deranged, Napa,
California, and a copy will be sent to you
freight charges collect.



UMGAWA

By ALEXANDR SERGEEYOSSEYEVITCH
PYERYEKRYESTYASSOLNOVITCHNIKOV

Translated from the original Russian into
Navajo Indian by SUN, HIM SHINE
BRIGHT and BLUE MOON

HIS HOLINESS, COUNT ALEXANDR SERBEEYOS-
EEYEVITCH PYERYEKRYESTYASSOLNOVITCHNIKOV, a
distant relative of RASHOLNIKOVITSKIY SER-
GEEYOSSEYEVITCH PYERYEKRYESTYASSOLNOVITCHNI-
KOV, was one of the lesser known poets of
his era. It has remained for modern times,
however, to realize how completely insignifi-
cant he really was. Any additional informa-
tion may be obtained by writing to the Russian
consulate in New York.

--THE TRANSLATORS.

UMGAWA

Anakareninana
Hoslo hoslo breslo
Pi meson kokakola
Kodak dakota dakota kodak
Molybdenum bartok
Syko, syko nix on nix on.

"GONE ARE THE DAYS"

By AND BY

There has passed from the American scene something irreplaceable, and its absence produces two pains in me, one in my heart, one in my pocket. First let me unburden myself of the latter, for it is from this that the other stems. What has happened to the nickel? I fear that it, like its noble predecessor to extinction, the penny, has gone the way of that engraved upon it. The penny went the way of Lincoln; the nickel, the way of the buffalo. There is present here a sign of creeping change, and I hope that I will not be here to chronicle its final ascension to triumph.

Yet, the disappearance of these two monetary units has not touched me so deeply as the simultaneous loss to the nation of the things dependent upon them. Gone is the day of the world's longest ride for only 5¢, and the narrowing of the slot in the subway's turnstiles has widened the chasm between now and the "good old days." Gone is the 5¢ telephone call, and the 5¢ beer. In fact, in my writing so far I have used something also extinct--gone is the cent sign!

More than all these already mentioned

two more things have gone which are the cruel-
est blows yet. Yes, gone are the candy store
and the 5 and 10. Those who still refuse to
acknowledge brute fact will say that the latter
still exists, and to them I must nod in agree-
ment but add that one thing is different--the
decimal point has moved. Where today is the
child who can remember the joy of letting his
eyes roam about the wonderful fairyland panor-
amas of these two establishments, metal instead
of paper in his hand with which to make his
purchases? Where today is the child who knows
how it feels to get a nickel from his father
or mother and then run to the store pressing
it so tightly that the Indian rides the buff-
alo, because he knows how many wonderful
things he can get in exchange for it?

I can remember the shelf upon shelf of
sweets which bathed my eyes and made me stag-
ger a little beneath the tremendous decision
I knew I would have to make, and now it is
all gone. I remember the jelly beans, fif-
teen for a penny, the Easter bunnies and eggs,
a penny each, the chocolate Santas on Christ-
mas and the chocolate turkeys on Thanksgiving,
also a penny each, the long sticks of pepper-
mint and licorice, two for a penny, the rows
of candy buttons on paper strips, also a
penny and, of course, the all-day-sucker,
symbol of the rich--that cost all of a nickel.
Yes, they are gone now along with the low
prices of everything familiar in the present
\$.50 and \$1.00 store.

Therefore, let us pause a moment, and, after this brief post-mortem, let us say a requiem for these two lost vestiges of happier days, and, most especially, let us add a word for the metal discs which have caused their demise. Having done so, let us now add a pre-mortem also, for I see an approaching spectre--the passing of the dime.

n + 10

PIECE

By LOUIE THE LOUSE

SY 5-2384 !

SY 4-6759 !

SY 5-2384 !

SY 4-6759 !

(Do you think she will?)

(Do you think she will?)

SY 2-9829

Braaakh !

SY 5-2384 !

SY 4-6759 !

70,000 copies of PIT, Autumn 1952,
printed by the Olive Press -
Pasadena, California
set in 12 point Underwood and printed on
Saturn Laid Wrapping paper.

December 1952