

THE QUATT WUNKERY

A FANZINE FOR MAILING COMMENTS

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volume two

mundus mea patria

number three

DEADWOOD (Locke) There is a story about a Winchester tutor in the early part of this century. He asked a pupil who the greatest composer was; the pupil replied that it was Mozart. The tutor told him that he was wrong -- it was Beethoven. Education techniques have progressed SOME since those days!

HORIZONS (Warner) I'm glad someone else shares my low opinion of the craftsmanship of workers in years gone by. People don't realize that the beautifully-made, durable and beautiful old objects they come across which were made fifty or a hundred years ago are not representative of the workmanship of those times. After all, most of the junky things made back then have gone where they belong -- to the junkpile -- long since.

SELF-PRESERVATION (Hoffman) You may be interested to know that the President of old Armstrong College recently ran as a Goldwater Republican for some office or other and was decisively defeated.

HELEN'S FANTASIA (Wesson) It's not really fair to accuse me of inconsistency in my actions concerning Breen and Martin since I was not in FAPA during the Martin affair and do not yet know all the details.

ALLERLEI (Breen) You have a Society of Erudite Bastards; I have a Committee of Tricky Nerds: Copenhagen is situated on an island. Name two other European capitals situated on islands. / If, when you say "Clerke" was pronounced clar-ke during the Puritan Commonwealth, you mean the second "e" was pronounced, I disagree. The English final "e" disappeared much earlier than that -- shortly after Chaucer.

POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC (brown) The word "strait" in "strait jacket" means "narrow; confining". E.g., King James Bible's "Strait is the way and narrow is the gate".

THE BULL MOOSE (Iorse) The reason the Liberal party in the U.K. gets a far smaller proportion of seats than votes has nothing to do with gerrymandering. The system of single-member districts with plurality winners (or even absolute majority winners) discriminates against third parties automatically, even if every district has exactly the same number of voters and is as compact as possible.

WANDY (Coulsons) The 1961 Corvair has a hand cheke and so do some recent Falcons.

SALUD (E. Busby) The fact that Davidson and White each attended the convention while he was editor of E&SF and boycotted it when he wasn't (if that is the case)

could merely mean that each felt an obligation to his employer to attend the convention. I see nothing whatever wrong with that. (The first line of this review should read "The fact that Davidson and White each attended or intended to attend.. etc. Sorry.)

WARHOON (Bergeron) Many Republicans I know had some very harsh things to say about JFK before he was murdered, and it is not uncommon for someone in such a position to feel guilty -- entirely unjustifiedly, of course. / Your logic in deducing the names of the fourteen blackballers is not airtight. For one of Busbys, Calkins, Coxes, Donaho, Eney, Evans, Harness, Kemp, Moskowitz, Pavlat, Pelz, Raeburn, and Speer may have voted for neither the "blackball" nor reinstatement, while simultaneously one of Caughran, Chauvenet, Hansen, Lewis, Lichtman, Metcalf, Sneary, Tucker and Warner may have voted for both -- as Pavlat would have done had he not forgot to vote for reinstatement. Actually we can eliminate some of the people in each list by using their own statements -- but not all of them.

ASP (Donaho) Three cheers and then some for your statement, "The only essential function of a convention committee is to get a hotel for the convention and to let fans know about it. All else is frosting." I have been bothered lately by the tendency of various fan committees (particularly the Fan Poll Committee and some in the NFFF) to enlarge their activities with all sorts of ambitious projects that make it unlikely that anyone in the future would wish to tackle the job.

THE AMBIVALENT ANDEBA (Harness) All these are verified actually names of people to add to your list: Pope Blackshear, C. D. LaBudde, R. Vande Velde, W. C. Waterhouse, Paul Pang, Colonel Johnson, Jr., Jack Abad, A. F. Abrahamse, Ivan Niven, Flor Cartuyvels, Cornelius Groenewoud, Vermont Connecticut Royster, Watts Carr, Pearl Fortune, Truman J. Eisenhower, Smith Brittingham, Afrika Hayes, Clifton Blue, and Claude Ficken. These are acquaintances, local dignitaries, relatives, and people from the problems section of the American Mathematical Monthly. Royster is editor of the Wall Street Journal.

ALLERLEI (Breems) In past generations and in the more rural and backwards areas today boys going to school and in school were often set upon and beaten up, too. The difference between that situation (which I was once in) and the situation your child is now in is that in a big city school, if he fights back and does damage he is liable to earn often terrible retaliation, whereas in former days and in rural areas if he fights back he earns acceptance in the group. Things have definitely deteriorated in that respect. One may not like one's child to fight, but once upon a time it would have solved your problem to encourage your boy to do so. Now it might actually be dangerous. I think the change can be laid to the current tendency to think in terms of groups and minorities, so that a white boy cannot earn acceptance of colored boys and vice versa. (Same goes for other groups). Unfortunately it's easy to start people thinking in terms of groups and hard to stop them.

SPINNAKER REACH (Chauvenet) You say, "Playing games like chess or Go is quite capable of being as interesting as a conversation, if not more so. In such games each move represents an idea or logical argument," etc. But an idea or argument about what? Good conversation sharpens your awareness of world and people as well as your logical skills.

MASQUE (Rotsler) Maybe that déjà vu feeling results from a feedback circuit in your brain, feeding your present sensations into the memory bank and back out through a route which is labeled "old memory".

LIGHTHOUSE (Carr) When you use an expression like "I gave up on that bit" is that taken from stage jargon? / Brooklyn is not a city, it is only a fifth of one.