

HOOP 7

"Bah! Humbug!"

This is HOOP #7, a magazine devoted to maintaining the N'APA membership of Lon Atkins, whose address is doubtful at the moment, but who can be reached c/o Dave Hulan, Box 1032, Canoga Park, California 91304. Today is 11 February 1967. Zugzwang Publication #56. Ed Cox for TAFF. Los Angeles in '68.

Yes, I know last issue I said I had a "new slant" towards N'APA and was going to do more activity, but now I put out a skimpy two-pager. Well the reason is simple; I've not changed my intent to try to put worthwhile material thru this apa (tho I've been accused of being "insane" by certain friends). There's just no way possible to do more than these two pages. If things go as planned, I'll be moving to Los Angeles around March first. Naturally there's a lot of packing to do and confusion to fight. If this isn't enough, the last week in February I have to get a SFFPA mailing out and that means work at a frantic level for a couple of days. Then there's this little matter of QUIP, the fanzine of which I am now the new co-editor (Len Bailes having semi-gafiated back to Associate Editor). QUIP's annish is coming out before March 1, by neccessity, for I'm publishing the blamed thing. Only 100 pages. I'm getting the fannish version of Marine boot camp, what with the massive doses of mimeoing and collating (oh ghod, the collating!) being crammed into the last few and next few days. Hell, if I hadn't taken this break to rest while cutting stencils, I'd probably be dead of exhaustion by now.

So that's why this is a poor two-pager. I'm sorry, because this will probably be the critical mailing so far as the survival of N'APA is concerning. Mailing 30 was small and poor, but one such mailing is more an incitement for the membership to bounce back than it is a signal of doom. But two bad mailings, especially when the second is even worse than the first, will dishearten. It's difficult to draw inspiration from a near vacuum of adequate material. Not that it's really true of Mlg 31 -- there was a good percentage of enjoyable stuff -- but when an apa has been hitting 400-plus page mailings, then the drop to a mere 100 pages is stunning. The fact that a large portion of the fabled 400 page mlgs was crud is forgotten. The shock of two tiny, mediocre mailings could kill N'APA in its already weakened condition. If it happens, then I'll have a slight pang of regret for the deceased, but I'll not mourn. N'APA is not an apa with much to distinguish it (other than being an all-Neffers apa) from several other apas formed in the last couple of years, which are now falling on ill times. If there's no need for an apa, as signified by lack of interest, why try to force the corpse to labor onward?

I feel thusly about N'APA: I would like to see interest revived to the point where N'APA would interest me enough so that my activity would be unforced. As long as there is a chance this might happen, I'll try to keep up HOOP to reasonable standards. However, if membership and mailings continue to drop, then obviously there is no such chance. If nothing improves by Mlg 33 (say), I suggest that N'APA simply suspend operations until the nature of fandom changes again to interest in apas. There's nothing sacred about N'APAs line of succession.

AA 31 (BPOE) * I vote YES on the Thorne ammendment.

BYZANTIUM #9 (KUSSKE) * I see you took my advise and removed "Pound-
ation" in order to avoid being sued for all
you're worth by some pro. ## I'm not really that fat, John, just
17½% overweight. Actually I'm not overweight atall. What looks like
fat is really disguised muscle built up from tearing beer cans to tiny
bits after drinking their beer. I finish a can, but in my besotted
state I don't realize it and I become enraged because the beer can is
refusing to produce more beer. I scream and crush the can, then rip
it to shreds. (I'ma mean drunk.) ## That's a fabulous line to
Patrick: "It's somehow fitting that you print Don D'Amassa stories."

FRINGE #8 (CAROL M) * Great cover! By Wally? ## Arrggh! Those were
morbid puns. It's a good thing I killed the
serial when I did. ## I generally do MC's first when I am able to
start a zine ahead of time (meaning a month or so before deadline);
otherwise I just start at the beginning and plow on for as many pages
as are needed or I feel like or have time for, whichever comes first.
This zine is being squeezed into a crowded schedule, will run only two
pages because of that, and is therefore being begun at the beginning.
I prefer doing MC's first, tho. ## I don't think too much activity
stagnates unless it is thoughtless activity. Whenever you put work
into an activity, you gain an increment of skill at the activity.
The periods of inactivity, tho, are necessary to assimilate new skill
as you say (or at least this has been my experience). This is dis-
tinct from the phenomena of "overtraining", where hyper-activity cau-
ses a setback in a previously gained skill:

KING ARTHUR... #1 (BERRY) * I had a friend once who lived in Bronx-
ville. He would bristle angrily whenever
anyone said "the Bronxville." Naturally I would always introduce him
as Andy from "the Bronxville." Noticing that you point out that
Bronxville is not in the Bronx, I wonder if you have this phobia too,
and if it's a common dislike of all reidents of that city. ## Greg
Shaw's parody of Pickering is quite good. ## "Obscenity" is a rel-
ative term; it means different things to different people, since its
nature is based in repugnance to taste, and we all have different
tastes and standards. The only thing getting Patrick to define the
word will do is show you something about his mind. And isn't that
obvious enough as is? ## Welcome aboard. You'll be an asset.

BETWEEN T&T (SCHUMACHER) * True, when you stop and think about it,
there's no real justification for any non-
survival activity except the egoboo or other satisfaction you get out
of it. Of course a lot of people can't stand the thot of not being
involved in some terribly important and significant activity, so they
delude themselves by various means, the most common of which is sneer-
ing at people uninterested in their special mania. All purely time-
passing hobbies are of equal objective value (ie, zero), but vary in
subjective value with individuals. It's confusing objective values
with subjective ones that is dangerous. (And that should have been
stated the other way around. ## Which Valley is ValSFS in? It isn't
the San Fernando, of course, since that's where I'll be.

RACHE #24 (PELZ) * The "killing attempt" died in committee. ## I see
you've answered my question about what valley.