
ALLARGANDO 3

This is ALLARGANDO, number 3, and OBSESSIVE PRESS number 77, and is published by Jeanne Gomoll who lives at 1148 Petra Place, #8, in Madison, WI (but whose mailing address is Box 1443, Madison, 53701-1443). ALLARGANDO is an apa-zine for the TURBO-CHARGED PARTY-ANIMAL Apa. ALLARGANDO supports Jeanne Gomoll (surprise) for TAFF and hopes that you will too. November 1986. Member FWA.

Sneaky, **Andy**, sneaky: calling apa-zines "letters" on the official business page so that people don't find out until it's TOO LATE that they are publishing fan-zines, and then later you can convince them to go Big-Time.

I sympathize with you, **Julie**. Con reports are excruciatingly hard to write. First of all they're hard to write so that they sound different from everyone else's con report, which is bizaare because everyone's convention experiences seem so very different from anyone else's. (Nevertheless, the main problem with con reports is that everyone tends to repeat the same sorts of descriptions, the same sort of formats, and they all blur together.) But the hardest thing is remembering the good parts of a convention. If you're having a good time, it's not likely that you're taking notes, and if you have a really great time, it's not even likely that you'll remember later. That's one thing I'm going to have to deal with if I win TAFF and travel to London next year. One of the things required of a TAFF winner is the writing of a long, detailed TAFF trip report. Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden used a tape recorder last year for their trip and are transcribing the tapes, though it hasn't come out yet, so I don't know how well it worked for them. Greg Pickersgill made notes while traveling between US cities that he's going to use for his trip report. I don't know how that worked for him either. But I'm already worrying about how I'm going to keep track of three or so weeks of desperate fun.

Gasp! You said Magic Mountain is "mild" for rollercoasters. I usually hate the things and will do almost anything to avoid a rollercoaster ride. A few years ago at Disneyland, Loren MacGregor convinced me to go ride the Space Mountain rollercoaster, which I've heard is similar to Magic Mountain (both are indoors and in the dark.). But I just remember screaming. Loren said that once the ride started I just screwed my eyes tightly shut and yelled "No!" the whole time. I almost kissed the ground when I got off the "ride." And I almost smacked the smartaleck kid in front of us who got off laughing, "let's ride it again!"

Ray, you mention that you care about saving trees. One way toward that end would be to drop some of the illustrations and to quit double (or space-and-a-half) spacing. And it would look and read better too, I think.

You forgot a couple terms in your APA GLOSSARY, **Dick**. For instance: "rules", "constitution", "bylaws", and "elections".

Bylaws See "OE is God"

Constitution See "OE is God"

Elections See "OE is God"

OE is God The only recognized rule, bylaw or constitution in an apa. Based upon the primitive idea that the one who does the work gets to decide how to do it, this simple apa axiom allows that any person may join an apa or drop out of it, but that the mechanics of operation are decided upon by the OE.

If enough people in the apa prefer a different sort of structure

they are encouraged to form another apa. Once an apa has been in existence for a long enough period of time to have established traditions, new OE's usually take on OE duties if they feel comfortable with those traditions, although the ultimate rule of "OE is God" can supercede even those traditions and a new OE is within her or his rights to thumb a nose at said tradition.

Elections See "OE is God". Elections are held or not held according to the OE's whim.

You and I, Richard, have had frequent arguments about the usefulness of imposing some form of hierarchies in situations where you thought they'd be useful and I thought they were unnecessary. This is another one of those situations. Later in your apa-zine, you talk about "inalienable rights" in response to a comment by Peter Larson. And you say that very few rights "have been singled out for mention in the constitutions of the US and the 50 states. Because constitutions are a living bitch to change--that process having happened only 26 times in the nearly 200 years the US Constitution has been around--they are seen as a relatively safe repository of these important ideas." Well everything is relative, and for the sort of things you'd like apa bylaws to cover, I think the potential hassels far outweigh the potential usefulness of such structures. I feel toward your proposal as I would toward someone who wanted the right-turn on red rule to be written into the US constitution.

The only important things about apa management is that it comes out on time and that everyone get a complete, collated copy of what everyone else published. Sure, addresses, account listings, tables of contents are useful sometimes, but they aren't necessary, and if the OE isn't interested in doing them, I don't think anyone should suggest that they be done (especially since it's the OE that does it, not the voters). A Women's Apa, the one you held up as an example, was a very organized, very bureaucratized apa because the first two OE's were very organized and very bureaucratically-minded, not because apas are "required to" or even naturally get done that way.

Andy's doing a fine job with the important parts: TURBOAPA has come out on time, and appears like it will continue to come out on time in the foreseeable future. Requiring him to publish bylaws every issue and produce a list of members and a table of contents could conceivably change that important fact. And I'm quite content to let him continue doing things the way he wants to do them. He's the OE. And remember the ultimate apa law: "OE is God".

And the name of the apa comes under this rule for me too. As I propagan-dized on the cover, I think a good title is a good metaphore, and maybe I wouldn't have chosen this particular title myself for an apa, but I didn't start the apa; Andy did. And as OE/God, naming the apa is one of the perks. So I'm in favor of the TURBOAPA name, even though I will tend to abreviate it usually.

Dick made some comment about the weirdness of my apa title. And **Diane** wondered if I was going to explain it or if you were all supposed to "intuit" it. **Hope** asked what it meant too. Well I figured that most of you would just look it up. I figured that most of the questions that I'd get would be "What does Member, FWA, mean?" Member, FWA, I would have said, means "Member of Fan Writers of America" which is a play on SFWA or SF Writers of America. I have the sneaky feeling that FWA was invented so that Brit fans could claim to be Fan Writers of the United Kingdom, or "FWUK". But none of you gave me the chance to make that explanation. I found "allargando" while flipping through the dictionary. It was right on the top of a page. And it seemed (metaphorically) to fit my idea of how an apa or even an individual apazine changes through time. Here's the definition: "Becoming gradually broader with the same or greater volume--used as a direction in music." Conversations, it's always seemed to me, gradually range broader and broader as the apa members get to know one another. As with music. Anyway, so there it is. And I liked the sound of the word.

Unfortunately, I'm not going to be able to do a very complete job of finishing mailing comments for this issue. It was very late last night when I did the cover. It took longer than I thought it would. (Some day I'm going to have to have the preceding sentence embroidered into a sampler and hang it above my work desk. It seems to be a constant theme in my life.) Anyway, so I'm typing (and writing, and of course, spelling) this zine out at the last minute, only an hour or so before the meeting at Nick's where I've promised to hand my zines and the cover to Andy. And I have to take the bus and stop at Kinko's to copy it first...

So only a few more mailing comments and then a mad dash for the bus.

Spike asked the perhaps rhetorical question about why only a few women gave their opinion on abortion last issue. I'd have to look at the last issue again to recall whether any women responded, actually. (Did any?)(But I don't have the time to check right now.) But I found myself thinking about this for a while, and I decided that the reason I didn't had to do with the way the conversation was couched. I've certainly talked a lot about it in my time; it's a crucial, central issue in my life and many other women. The option to control one's own body and life are not peripheral or subjects I am likely to get tired of considering. But (with reference to **Nevenah's** idea that men name things), this is one of the reasons why **Nevenah's** comments attracted me last issue. The approach to this topic was done in a very (sorry about this:) in a very male fashion. Most women would start a conversation, or continue a conversation, about this topic with the use of personal anecdotes, about themselves or others that they know well. The most interesting part of **Dick's** discussion, I thought, was his little story about his conversation with the nurse who had participated in some abortions. It was an immediate, personal, gut reaction. Certainly, discussion of the laws and the legal system comes into a discussion on abortion at some point, even with women who tend to talk from a personal point of view first. But discussion-by-definition isn't the sort of conversation hook that will attract many women. Now if someone had started out with a personal story and then stated an opinion of abortion's morality or immorality, I've got the feeling that there might have been a little more discussion. Eventually we might have even gotten into the supreme court's opinions and someone might have asked to see the exact wording of some of the sections. But, it didn't seem like a very provocative way to begin a discussion. In contrast, look at the amazing way that the personal descriptions of job situations sparked other job descriptions and personal narratives...

I'll be curious to see whether **Kim Nash** jumps to defend his gender from slander.

This page is taking longer than I thought it would take. The bus leaves in moments. So you'll have to excuse me...See you next month, or at Nick's tonight, whatever.

Jeanne

Jeanne Gomoll

