
APPARATCHIK

The thirtieth issue of a bi-weekly fanzine, published by Andy Hooper, member fwa, supporter afal, at The Starliter Building, 4228 Francis Ave. N. # 103, Seattle, WA 98103, available to e-mail at A.Hooper5@GENIE.Geis.com. This is Drag Bunt Press Production # 215. Sorry, honey, but that's not a chicken, it's a telephone.

Issue # 30, March 23rd, 1995

FANDOM'S SPRING EQUINOX FESTIVAL will be upon us before this publication will come to you again, so this is the last chance to give you the breaking Corflu news. Jeanne Bowman says that there will be a TAFF presence in the Corflu auction, and word from Vegas is that DUFF will be represented as well. I know Jeanne has some good stuff, so collectors should be prepared to bid. From a conversation with Bill Bodden: Although there does not seem to be any chance of playing softball in Las Vegas, there is a movement afoot to go bowling. Bring your shoes, and your ball, if you want to lug them around the country with you. Victor Gonzalez is looking for people to go in with him on renting a big white Cadillac and cruising around in the desert until huge manta rays begin to attack the car. Beware! Those of you with epilepsy or other seizure disorders should be aware that Las Vegas isn't really set up with you in mind. And so many people will be arriving in the middle of Thursday afternoon that the whole fannish population of Vegas could easily be employed in driving us back and forth to Arnie and Joyce's place. Let's try to meet in the lobby of the hotel and share cabs to the Thursday party. Would everyone reading this who is a past president of fwa and does not appear on the following list, please contact me or Lucy Huntzinger and let us know. This year, we want to figure out who the past-presidents are and WRITE THEM DOWN somewhere, so Ted will be able to read a list when we vote for 1994's misadministrator in Las Vegas. Known Past Presidents: Terry Carr, Judith Hanna, Lucy Huntzinger, Robert Lichtman, Joseph Nicholas, Stu Shiffman, Jack Speer, Suzle Tompkins Bob Tucker & Ted White.

It occurred to me that this zine will reach your hands just a day or three before the deadline of a number of fannish elections and polls. I made my appeal in regard to the Spent Brass Poll last issue, but at the same time that I want you to remember fanwriters and artists from last year, the FAAN award ballots, the Hugo nominating ballots, and shortly thereafter, the TAFF ballots, are all due. Voting for these things is kind of a drag, it takes a long time to do a good job figuring out what's eligible, and as someone once said, it only encourages them. But as long as there appears to be no force on Earth that will prevent people from taking polls and giving out awards and conducting popularity contests, we might as well make them mean something by adding our own voices to the mix. If all of APAK's readers were to take the time to vote in all these competitions, I

think we would be virtually assured of being a statistically meaningful group in determining who wins and loses. I am not suggesting block-voting or any such skull-duggery; the point is simply to make sure that there are lots of votes to be counted, and the people we respect and venerate in fandom will at least appear in the list of those receiving votes.

To this end, I'm including with this issue of APAK a set of ballots for all four of the contests whose deadlines I've mentioned here. You need to mail the Hugo, Spent Brass Poll, and FAAN award ballots as soon as you can, but you can deliver the TAFF ballots (and your voting fee) to Jeanne in person at Corflu. She plans to pursue a 100% voting record among Corflu attendees. And if you are willing to send in only one set of votes, please consider helping to decide the FAAN awards. Whatever the shortcomings of the nomination process, it needs our attention the most to have any future.

It doesn't have anything to do with Corflu, but Ted White wanted me to mention the fact that Janice M. Eisen has joined the BLAT! editorial staff as full-time fanzine reviewer. Send zines for review to 123B Laretta Lane, Johnstown PA 15904.

Speaking of fanzine review, I have made my annual numerical ratings and have included them in this issue. All of this began with one silly article several years ago, in which I devised a system for giving fanzines a score based on their content and presentation. I never made any pretense of creating an objective system for measuring which fanzines were the best, but merely sought to quantify the different subjective reactions they elicited from me.

And then there was some the confusion when Arnie Katz wanted to modify the system so the numbers would add up to 100, and I felt like it was already a pretty good system, and besides, who asked him, so I kind of dropped it for a year or two thereafter. Now I'm publishing them again, so read 'em and rage.

Oh, yes, the system: Fanzines are rated in seven different categories, Layout and Design, Art, Congeniality, Attention to Genre, Writing Quality, Temporality, and Faanishness. I originally had a long list of questions that were asked about each attribute of a Zine, but now I pretty much just eyeball them. You can pick the top zines out of the list yourself, although I am saving an article on The Indispensable Fanzines of 1994, for the first fanned who asks for it....

Also bare and wet at Blowoff

1994 FANZINES IN NUMERICAL REVIEW

Editor	Title	Issues in '94	Lay.	Art	Cong.	Gen.	Writ.	Temp.	Faan.	Tot.
John Bangsund	fibonacci & mehitabel	1	9	6	8	8	9	8	9	57
Eoghan Barry	Mother Miles	4	7	6	8	8	8	8	6	51
Tracy Benton	Cazbah	2	7	8	9	7	9	8	10	58
John D. Berry	Egoboo	1	9	9	9	8	10	10	10	65
Tony Berry	Eyeballs in the Sky	1	6	6	9	8	9	8	9	55
Redd Boggs	Spirochete	4	9	7	10	7	10	9	10	62
Vijay Bowen	Well-Meaner	2	9	7	10	7	10	8	9	60
Richard Brandt	Creature of Habit	2	7	6	9	8	8	7	8	53
Ned Brooks	It Goes on the Shelf	2	8	8	7	10	8	7	6	54
Brian Earl Brown	Fapamentary	1	7	6	7	8	7	8	7	50
	Sticky Quarters	1	6	7	8	7	8	8	7	51
rich brown	Basura Para Botar	3	8	6	7	7	9	8	10	55
R. Graeme										
Cameron	Space Cadet	1	6	8	8	9	8	9	9	57
Ross										
Chamberlain	Quondam Bleep	1	8	8	9	7	8	7	10	57
Ken Chesfin	Outhouse b/w The Olaf Alternative	1	8	7	8	7	7	8	9	54
Chuck Connor	Thingumybob	4	8	8	7	7	8	8	8	54
Rich Dengrove	Jomp, Jr.	1	8	8	7	7	8	7	6	51
Frank Denton	The Cafe of the One Bridge	1	7	8	9	7	9	8	8	56
	Rogue Raven	1	7	7	9	7	9	7	8	54
Bill Donaho	Habakkuk	2	9	10	8	8	9	8	10	62
Lillian Edwards	The Wrong Leggings	2	8	8	8	6	10	8	8	56
Janice Eisen	Tales of the Cambrian Era	3	8	8	7	8	7	8	7	53
Gordon Eklund	Sweet Jane	3	7	6	8	7	8	8	9	53
Holger Eliasson	Hildisvin	3	8	7	7	9	10	8	6	55
Tom Feller	The Reasonable Freethinker	2	8	8	8	9	7	8	6	54
Tommy Ferguson	Tash	3	7	7	8	7	10	9	8	56
Don Fitch	From Sunday to Saturday	1	8	6	9	8	9	9	9	58
	Wondering & Wandering	1	9	6	9	7	9	8	9	57
Ken Forman	FAPA-tizer	1	7	6	9	8	9	9	9	57
Don Franson	Trash Barrel	2	7	6	8	6	7	8	8	50
Bruce Gillespie	The Metaphysical Review	1	10	8	8	10	9	8	8	61
Benoit Girard	The Frozen Frog	4	8	8	10	8	8	9	10	61
Jenny Glover	Maverick	1	9	8	8	8	9	8	8	58
Tara & Robert Glover	Cybrer Bunny	1	9	7	9	9	8	7	7	56
Mike Glycer	File 770	4	8	8	7	7	8	10	10	58
Steve Green	Basilisk	2	8	8	8	7	7	8	9	55
Ian Gunn	Stunn Gunn	1	7	9	9	7	8	8	8	56
Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas	FTT	1	9	9	8	8	10	8	8	60
Rob Hansen	Licks	2	7	6	8	7	9	9	10	56
John Hardin	Popular Phrenology	1	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	58
Chuch Harris	Charrisma	5	7	8	9	7	9	8	10	58
David Haugh	Odd	3	10	10	6	6	7	6	6	51
Dave Hicks	Moriarty's Revenge	2	8	8	8	7	9	9	9	58
Hooper & Root	Spent Brass	2	8	8	8	7	9	7	10	55
Bill Humphries	!	1	8	7	7	7	8	9	6	52
Lucy Huntzinger	Southern Gothic	3	9	8	9	7	10	9	8	60
Arnie Katz	Glitz	2	8	8	9	7	8	8	10	58
Joyce Katz	SpinDizzy	1	9	9	9	7	8	9	10	61
Jerry Kaufman & Suzle Tompkins	Mainstream	1	8	10	9	8	10	9	10	64
Christina Lake	Never Quite Arriving	2	8	8	8	8	10	9	9	60
Dave Langford	Ansible	13	9	9	9	10	9	10	10	66
George Laskowski	Lan's Lantern	1	8	8	9	10	7	8	7	57
Fred Lerner	Lofgeomost	4	9	6	8	7	9	9	8	56

Editor	Title	Issues in '94	Lay.	Art	Cong.	Gen.	Writ.	Temp.	Faan.	Tot.
Robert Lichtman	King Biscuit Time	2	8	8	9	7	8	8	9	57
	Trap Door	2	8	9	9	8	10	9	10	63
Eric Lindsay	Gegenschein	2	9	9	9	9	9	8	7	60
Frank Lunney	Syndrome	1	10	10	9	8	10	10	10	67
Nicki & Richard Lynch	Mimosa	2	10	9	9	8	8	9	10	63
Mark Manning	Jupiter Jump	1	9	8	8	7	8	9	9	58
Luke McGuff	Project Z	1	9	7	8	7	10	9	7	57
Marci McDowell	Night Music	3	7	8	9	8	8	9	8	57
Kev McVeigh	Malade	1	6	6	8	7	10	8	8	53
Franz Miklis	Galacto-Celtic Newsflash	1	8	8	9	8	8	9	10	60
Simon Ounsley	Platypus	4	9	8	8	7	8	9	9	58
Scott Patri	The Zero-G Lavatory	2	7	7	9	8	7	8	8	54
Greg Pickersgill	Rastus Johnson's Cakewalk	3	10	9	7	8	10	9	10	63
Barnaby Rapoport	Snarkin' Surfari	1	8	9	8	9	10	9	9	62
Nigel Richardson	Slubberdegullion	1	9	9	7	8	9	8	7	57
Carrie Root	A walk on the North Side	1	7	7	10	10	8	9	6	57
Vicki Rosenzweig	Quipu The Unicorn in the Garden	1	9	6	9	7	10	8	9	58
Ray Schaeffer	Fanalysis	3	7	8	8	9	8	9	8	57
Nigel Rowe	Musings of a Wandering Prophet	1	8	8	8	7	9	9	9	58
	Time to Dream....	1	10	7	9	8	9	9	10	62
Tom Sadler	The Reluctant Fanulus	2	8	8	8	8	8	9	7	56
A. Langley Searles	Fantasy Commentator	1	9	8	8	10	7	9	9	60
Bob Silverberg	Snickersnee	1	7	6	8	7	10	10	9	57
Roger Sims	Fantasy-Scope	1	8	7	8	7	9	7	10	56
Jack Speer	Synapse	4	8	7	9	8	9	9	10	60
Dale Speirs	Opunda Canadian Journal of Detournement	8	8	8	9	9	9	10	8	61
Tom Springer	Brodie	4	8	10	9	6	8	9	8	58
Bo Stenfors	Fapa Venus	2	8	8	10	8	8	8	10	60
Alan Stewart	Thyme	1	8	8	8	10	8	8	9	59
Mark Strickert	MarkTime	4	8	10	9	9	9	10	10	64
Gerri Sullivan	Idea	2	7	8	9	10	8	8	7	57
	gfs	1	10	10	10	8	10	8	10	66
Roy Tackett	Notes from Arinam	1	9	9	9	7	9	8	7	58
Martin Tudor	Empties	3	8	6	9	9	9	9	10	60
Shelby Vick	Hallelujah!	2	9	8	8	7	10	9	10	61
Harry Warner	Hallelujah!	1	7	6	10	7	9	8	10	57
Henry Welch	Horizons	4	6	6	8	9	10	10	10	59
Abbott, Dallman & Wells	The Knarley Knews	6	8	8	8	10	8	9	8	59
Joe Wesson	Attitude	3	8	9	7	8	9	9	10	60
Ted White & Dan Steffan	Joe Wesson Magazine	2	8	6	9	8	9	8	10	58
Ted White & Arnie Katz, et al	Blad	2	10	10	8	8	10	10	10	66
Art Widner	Group Mind	1	9	10	8	7	10	9	10	63
Kip Williams	The Ted White Sampler	1	7	10	9	8	10	10	10	64
Paul Williams	Short Shrift	1	9	9	10	8	9	8	10	63
Ben Zuhl	YHOS	1	7	9	9	8	9	7	10	59
	New Pals	1	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	61
	Crawdaddy	2	10	9	8	10	10	10	7	64
	Ben'Zine	1	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	60
Club	Title	Issues in '94	Lay.	Art	Cong.	Gen.	Writ.	Temp.	Faan.	Tot.
El Paso SFFA	Mobius Strip	11	7	8	9	10	6	9	8	57
F.A.C.T.	The Texas SF Inquirer	3	8	7	8	8	7	6	7	51
F.O.S.F.A	Fosfax	6	7	8	5	9	7	8	6	50
The Las Vegnants	Bugsy in Chains	1	8	8	10	7	9	10	10	62
LASF5	De Profundis	12	5	6	8	8	6	9	7	49
NFSFA	Astromancer Quarterly	1	9	9	9	8	8	6	8	57
Seattle Cacophony Soc.	Machination	11	9	9	8	5	6	8	6	51
SF3	Chube	4	7	7	8	7	8	8	8	53

Superior Perception of Objective Reality

by Victor M. Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Where do reporters and newspapers get the idea that their presentation of the facts can possibly lack a subjective element?

The underlying philosophical questions are simple: Is there an objective reality from which our minds derive a perceptual reflection? If so, can we grasp it?

The concept of an actually objective reporter is in such disregard that journalism professors talk of "the appearance of objectivity" instead of "the unbiased eye." They speak of conflicts of interest as though the lack of an obvious conflict has some relation to a lack of bias.

Reporters are so widely hated because the entire position is hypocritical. Journalists tend to be versed in current events and the nitty-gritty of politics, and they often spend their hours dissecting events and documents using intuition and experience. They're the last people you might expect to hold an opinion, right?

The lengths to which journalists will go to maintain that appearance are absurd.

They will refuse to exhibit a political affiliation, up to and including declining to vote. A reporter at the News Tribune had to sue to keep from being fired after she participated in a gay-rights march -- and even after winning the job back, she was moved to the copy desk, where, one is to assume, her beliefs won't do any harm.

What is or isn't conflict is a precise matter: if you cover transportation, it's okay to be openly gay; if you are a food writer, don't own an interest in a restaurant. Mona Lee, a Seattle Television news reporter, recently married King County Executive Gary Locke. So she doesn't cover county politics anymore.

But reporters find it impossible to keep opinions absent from a story. Even if you give each side the same number of inches, the way you choose quotes usually shows some bias. The readers never see the discards.

And regardless of what a writer has inserted in a story, the reader will always find an opinion lurking in the guise of a fact or description.

From this boiler the steam is generated that powers Rush Limbaugh. Since he doesn't claim to be objective, he doesn't look like a hypocrite when he implies or expresses an opinion.

People tired of seeing evident bias denied by mainstream journalists feel they are getting something more substantial from the popular and corpulent propagandist.



They are getting a point of view, the same as from any other source.

Journalists must admit, as they already do in some venues, where conflicts of interest and bias might exist. Rather than presenting the reader with a packet of predigested information, the writer should engage the reader in a discussion in which the reader can make up his or her own mind with knowledge of the writer's prejudices.

Instead, people see the media as an enemy. They actually blame it for the country's problems. People speak of the "liberal establishment media," but why don't they talk about the "conservative establishment bar"?

It's as though journalists had more influence than lawyers. If the mainstream media is run by liberals, that's because those who enjoy the job are liberals, just as those who enjoy being politicians are dishonest by nature.

Not all politicians are dishonest, and not all journalists are liberals. But so long as reporters are accused of having points of view -- no matter what they may be -- they will pull their heads deeper into the shell of objectivity, perhaps eliminating their ability to regain the trust of the people.

Without the trust of the people, the media lose the ability to monitor government and business excesses that, if unchecked, promise to modify your life.

Democracy succeeds because the media help right the imbalance of information that has perpetuated elitist power structures for millennia. A newspaper can't give you the strength to topple those structures.

But the papers can tell you more about what's happening that the major players want you to know.

Maybe everything is subjective, and no one can relate a "better" version of the truth. Or maybe an objective reality transcends individual perception, something a reporter might aspire to reflect with perfect accuracy.

But could rarely succeed

CORRECTION:

Although I thought everything had been settled when I wrote the last column, the Tacoma News Tribune waited until the last minute and offered me a job.

This put me in a rotten situation. I could either break my word or make an inferior career choice. I took the low road, but I blame it on the thoughtless, lazy corporation that would put an employee in such a position.

So I'm working metro in Tacoma.



AND NOW, YOUR LETTERS:

[APH - The letters have matched the higgledy-piggledy quality of APAK in recent months, so we'll spring from topic to topic with them, starting with VICKI ROSENZWEIG (33 Indian Rd. #6-R, New York NY 10034) who has the spirit of the season:]

"Your early spring sounds delightful -- almost enough to make me consider putting up with the long, dark winter nights. It is spring here as Andy and I reckon it -- we saw crocuses blooming ten days ago in Central Park -- but there's been ice on the ground since, and the only other flowers we've seen in bloom were at Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Nonetheless, I think pansies in February, out doors exposed to the winds, are worthy of mention.

"I'm pleased by the revival of the FAAN awards, and certainly can find time to send in that ballot and the Spent Brass poll (and the Hugo Nominating ballot, which are also due at the end of March). I only hope the final ballot gets wider distribution than the nominating ballot (which reached me on 2 March, well after the deadline for sending it in and only one day before the final ballot arrived), so we can get a reasonable sampling of the viewpoints of fanzine fandom and an award selected by enough people that the winners will value it."

[APH - It does strike me that the FAAN awards will need an administrator independent of the Clorflu committee to keep it going. I agree with all of these fine things you have said here, but where is your SB Poll ballot?]

"Pamela Boal's letter reminds me that I was recently reading a Jane Austen novel, in one of those footnoted and introduced editions that classic works are often saddled with. (The problem is that the footnotes almost always explain things I already knew, or occasionally things that I don't care about, such as the exact time when the book must take place.) One of the foot notes was to the term "base ball," used to refer to some kind of outdoor game not further identified, but likely similar to what we now know as baseball. That footnote was there to tell me that this English novel from 1810 was the earliest use of the term the OED had been able to locate. How the Abner Doubleday people deal with that, I don't know. (Probably they aren't in the habit of wandering through either Austen or the OED, and have thus been able to avoid the problem.)"

[APH - the "Abner Doubleday people," whom I take to mean Albert Goodwill Spalding, principle instigator of the Doubleday hoax, probably didn't read Jane Austen. He almost certainly doesn't read much of her work now, since he's been dead for 80 years. Now, MICHAEL W. WAITE (105 West Ainsworth, Ypsilanti MI 481197-5336) idly sends off folding money on the advice of mysterious urges:]

"Apparatchik, never heard of it. What is an apparatchik? Yes, I know it's a bi-weekly fanzine, and I am impressed.

But where does the name come from? I didn't know fandom had a weekly fanzine. Has there ever been a daily fanzine? Perzines are my favorite form of fanzine

reading. I still miss Don C. Thompsons DON-o-SAUR."

(APH - Well said, Sir. I plan to will my titles to a successor, so they might survive me, so my friends can still have "my" fanzine and thus hopefully feel the pangs of my absence less keenly. All mysteries and riddles of the APAK agenda will be made clear to you soon, but for now, take your rightful place in the ranks of Xenophon's host.

I open the question to the experts in the field: What was the longest-running daily fanzine in fannish history?

The Phantom of Kendall Square Station, GEORGE FLYNN (P.O. Box 1069, Ken. Sq. Stn., Cambridge MA 02142) reads as carefully as ever:]

"Now, if I understand it correctly, this Scott Patri is preaching fire and sword against the media fans, while proselytizing for Magic playing? Oh, my. (The continuing spread of Magic is certainly alarming. In NESFA they've actually established a league, and at one point last week I courted five games in progress simultaneously in the clubhouse. Meanwhile I go around uttering sarcastic remarks and imprecations such as "SHAME! SHAME!" I don't think I want to be in the vicinity when the bubble bursts.)

"Yes, Dave Langford's 'picture has appeared...on remaindered books across the western hemisphere,' but the last time I looked, that didn't include Glasgow.

"This is the first I've heard of plans for an 'alternative pre-con event' in London. It's a bit late, I fear, since those of us who are going to the Worldcon are well along toward finalizing our travel plans. Tell us more."

[APH-This is a very good point. Mr. Hansen, we're waiting. If it was supposed to be a secret, then I should not have been told.

ALGERNON D'AMMASSA (323 E. Dodge St., East Providence RI 02914 Internet: af638@osfn.rhllinet.gov) has the Innsmouth Look:]

"Las Vegas is just the omphlos of your new power base. Andy, you are the New Power Generation. You are the silvery membrane through which fandom's sacred truths flow. The 'h' in GHOD - that's you, Hooper (And I am the 'odd'.)

"While I may hesitate...to deify you, I will applaud you this week for being a fine example...It's not talent that makes a fine editorialist (and fan-ed) but disposition and clarity. In APAK #29, you wrote a highly-critical review of Zero-G Lavatory, taking into account the editor's personal attitude, and frankly, you gave him a paddling. A good paddling. Negative reviews can be overridingly positive, as you demonstrate frequently. You can trash a fanzine, and its editor, without indicting anyone's existence in fandom.

"Interesting deconstruction of Feller's zine title, Reasonable Freethinker. I don't see these two words as necessarily oxymoronic or redundant. They are, I think, mutual qualifiers. 'Free' thinking without the guidance of reason just becomes an arbitrariness, which is its own prison. But clinging to reason, as if any axiom of reality was not provisional, is a way of hiding from reality, which is paradoxical and transient. Reasonable

Strike to spread to Vashon and Tanaino tomorrow

FANZINE COUNTDOWN, MARCH 10 TO 22:

#1: Attitude #4, Michael Abbott, John Dallman, Pam Wells [A brand new Harry Bell cover is reason enough to crow for this fmz, but there's a lot of other good stuff as well, including a lot of blatant and repulsive lies about me (What is this thing called humor, earthling?). There is nothing tentative or lacking chemical balance in Attitude, now a fully-realized and self-perpetuating genzine. Look, ye mortals, and wonder. Nice variety of British writers, and not all of them whinge.]

#2: Nine Lines Each #13 & 14, Forman, Hardin, Springer & Wilson. [More fanmail from my flounders. I keep giving short-shrift to Ben Wilson, who has been waiting to spontaneously join the APAK mailing list since I drunkenly promised to add him at Silvercon. But Ben is rewarded for his patience at last! He is ascended to the elite legion, Fandom's Immortals. They grope for a focal point fanzine, avoiding the obvious solution to their rootlessness and ennui, to do it themselves]

#3: Chube #57, Hope Kiefer, for the SF3 [Bucolic timebinding, ably assembled and faanishly mimeographed by Jae Leslie Adams, the Madonna (& child) of the Mimeograph. Great to see that MadStf has returned to meeting at Nick's restaurant, the best hang-out they have ever had. Chube seemsto be developing into the voice of Madison fandom as a whole, with all its feminist, civil-libertarian, sercon and cow-tipping cultist aspects, and that is a Good Thing. Don't believe that bad e-mail address for me on pg 2!]

#4: Sticky Quarters #24, Brian Earl Brown [Bliss and delight for the baby-obsessed segment of fandom. Brian talks about the hardships in the life of an Atari-user and offers a serious comparison of Babylon Five and The Lord of the Rings. Good repro this time.]

#5: Science Fiction Chronicle #178 -180, Andrew I. Porter [Wow, a two-time Hugo-winner. I give him credit, this looks like a lot of work. I like having access to The British Report and wish Andy would expand the fandom section. Good God! Did you know that Will Sykora had been dead since last June 7th? How do I miss hearing about these things?]

ALSO RECEIVED: FOSFAX #174, Turbo-Ada #104

VOTE!

Mr. Dan Steffan for T.A.F.F!

Your Humble Scribe in the Faan Awards?

Blat!, Habakkuk, Trap Door, RJC and Lagoon
for the Hugo Award....

And do so without further delay, pliz

Freethinker' makes me think of one who has learned well the teaching of a sage who once advised his pupils to 'arouse your mind without letting it rest on anything.'

"Please advise: would you prefer NOT to receive LoCs via e-mail?"

[APH - No, no - that's why I put the address at the front of the zine! Send LoCs in anyway you like.

That's it for this time. See you in Vegas!]

APPARATCHIK is the John Rhys Davies of fandom, Bellowing Welshman of the cinema, doomed to play every nationality save his own in an ever-degenerating series of direct-to-video movies. You can get APPARATCHIK for \$3.00 for a three-month supply, or a year's worth for \$12.00 or a life-time sub-scription for \$19.73, or in exchange for cassettes of post-apocalyptic mutant monster movies with Jan Michael Vincent. Most Excellent Lifetime subscribers are Tom Becker, Don Fitch, Lucy Huntzinger, Luke McGuff, Janice Murray, Greg Pickersgill, Alan Rosenthal, Anita Rowland, Karen Schaffer, Geri Sullivan and Art Widner. Addresses of fanzines reviewed at left: ATTITUDE #4, C/O Michael Abbott, 102 William Smith Close, Cambridge, CB1 3QE United Kingdom; CHUBE, Box 1624, Madison WI 53701-1624; NINE LINES EACH 7215 Nordic Lights Dr., Las Vegas NV 89119-0335; SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE, Box 022730, Brooklyn NY 11202-0056; STICKY QUARTERS, 11675 Beaconsfield, Detroit MI 48224

What are you looking for down here?

AIR KOMBAT KORNER:

I started a new pilot again the other day, following the retirement of Captain Ira Pangborn, who had quite enough campaigning after fighting the best pilots left in Japan, who were armed with the Nakajima Ki-84 Hayate. 2nd Lt. Pike Bishop began the war deployed to Luzon with a P-40 squadron, and had some early success against foolishly unescorted bombers. After the evacuation of the Philippines, he returned to the mainland to be checked out in the Bell P-39 Airacobra, an aircraft I approached with reluctance, because of it's terrible reputation as a slow and mechanically unreliable fighter.

Well, put me down as a convert. I think it is a substantially superior fighter to the P-40 Warhawk, the other fighter deployed by the Army Air force in the first years of the war. It's quite a bit faster, turns quicker and climbs better than the P-40, and the main armament of two .50-caliber and four .30-caliber machine guns is roughly comparable to the P-40's six .50's. The P-39 also has a 37mm cannon faired through the propeller's spinner, but it's inaccurate because of its low muzzle velocity.

So far, I've had good luck fighting early Mitsubishi Zeroes, Betty Bombers and some naval strike types. It's important to remember to fight in the vertical plane as much as possible, riding a big inline engine that sits behind the pilot. High tech, 1940. It's easy to crank the airspeed up to 350 mph in a shallow dive, and close with the Japanese fighters so quickly that they cannot turn out of the field of fire. And the P-39 is so much better in visibility, with a long, sloping window at the back of the canopy, slightly reminiscent of a 1963 Studebaker Avanti. I check six, and there's something there besides the headrest!

And when I manage to get the cannon trained on a bomber at optimum range... it does save time to be able to set them on fire with one round.