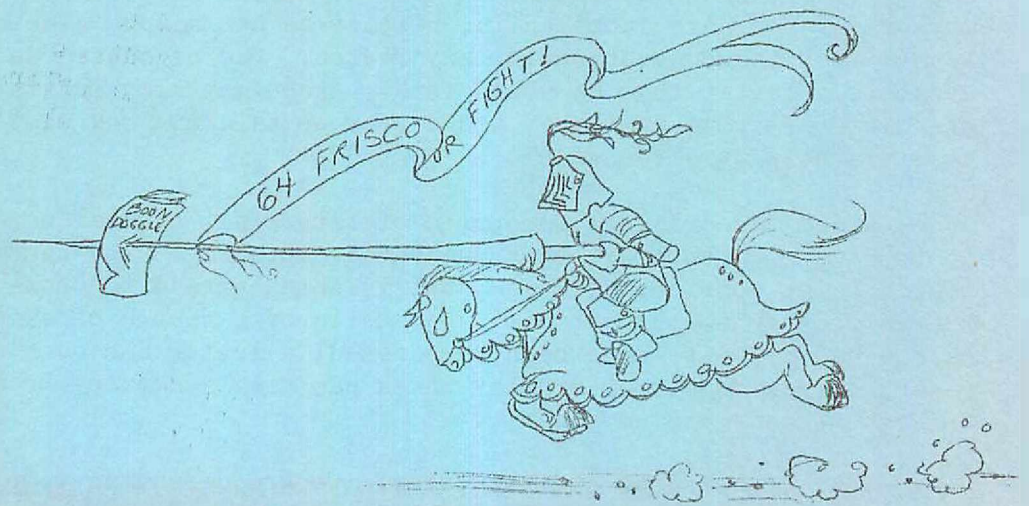


# The Loyal Opposition



TRIAL BY FANZINE: A BRIEF FOR THE DEFENSE

The whole thought is a repugnant idea; fandom is not a court of law. Yet, if Walger Breen is to have a hearing of the charges made against him, it will have to be in the fan press. I doubt that many active fans are now ignorant of these charges, and at least a portion of their background. Those who have not read Donaho's original "Boondoggle" wherein the matter was broached to all of fandom have at least read Ted White's version of it in MINAC, or listened to contradictory stories making the rumor circuit.

Walter Breen has been accused of being a homosexual and a child-molester by implication at least, and has been barred from the Pacificon by the convention committee on those grounds. A move is underway to blackball him from FAPA on the same grounds, relying essentially on the material which caused the Pacificon committee to take its action. And Bill Donaho and Ted White have invited all of fandom in on the game to argue the question of Breen's guilt or innocence, with the apparent assumption on Bill's part that a verdict of "guilty" should result in ostracism from all of fandom.

One wishes this could be left to the courts of law, to either try Breen on the charges, to charge Donaho with libel, and sort the truth and equity of the matter out in a manner both dignified and thorough. This does not appear likely. Although Donaho has admitted, in a letter to Bob Lichtman, that he was the fan who turned over copies of "Boondoggle", TESSERACT, and PANIC BUTTON to the Berkeley police, he has also admitted in a phone conversation, that because of reluctance of some people to testify to the allegations he doubted that a court conviction of Breen would be possible. Furthermore, convinced that while some of the details would not hold up, the basic thesis--that Breen is homosexual--is true, the committee members feel that Breen cannot sue for libel because of the danger of another "Oscar Wilde." Furthermore, lawyers are expensive.

Breen has been charged with unsavory acts, and the substance of the charges has received substantial circulation throughout fandom. The issue has been thoroughly confused by those among Breen's supporters who are sexual libertarians and maintain that no matter what sexual practices Breen may or may not have indulged in, neither he nor anyone else should be banned from the convention for any reason. One of these "defenders" even wrote in a letter that he would rather Breen sexually initiated his three stepdaughters than that they would grow up thinking sex was evil. This is hardly a helpful defense!

Since the original inception of this zine, several unpleasant incidents have come to light that are rather appalling. The nastiness is no longer being confined to Breen, but is being spread to those who have had the effrontery to support him. Bjo tells of a couple of experiences; Ray Nelson and his wife have been threatened; a letter has been circulated in regard to Marion Zimmer Bradley which has been judged by Breen's lawyer to be both obscene and unmailable.

Yet, please note a distinction. We are defending people, not actions. We are attacking actions, not people. If Walter Breen is not a monster who must be expunged, no more are the members of the Pacificon committee. They are, all of them, among the fans I like best. We have, all of us, on occasion, been carried away by emotion and done things we later regretted. I feel that this is such an occasion. And, even this shall pass.



# The Loyal Opposition

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THE LOYAL OPPOSITION, March 1964, is edited and published by John & Bjo Trimble--5571 Belgrave Ave., Garden Grove, Calif., 92641, USofA-- who take full responsibility for its contents; with the exception of the excerpts from Dick Ellington's Open Letter and the reprinted material, all of the contents of this magazine have been solicited by us.

TLO is being postmailed to the February 1964 FAPA, and March 1964 OMPA Mailings. One copy per member is being sent to fans who are members of both groups; any of these people who wish the other copy to which they are entitled may obtain it by asking for it.

THANKS are extended to Ardis Waters, who sent along half a dozen blank stencils, and to Bob Chazin, who sent stamps.

INTERIOR ART by Ray Nelson.

## THANKS TO BILL DONAHO

On the basis of our personal knowledge and information, we do not believe Walter Breen to be guilty on the charges made by the Pacificon II Committee and implied in the document "The Great Breen Boondoggle."

We believe that the entire affair has been handled unfairly, amateurishly, and with great harm to the entire fan world and to Pacificon II.

We believe that there has not been a fair dissemination of the facts of this affair, and that a false impression has been conveyed that the Committee's actions and the "Boondoggle" are essentially official representations of Bay Area fan attitudes. They are not.

In support of these statements, we offer the following set of facts. They are intended for the widest possible public dissemination. Anybody who wishes may quote them wherever and whenever he likes.

1. The document called "The Great Breen Boondoggle," written and distributed by Pacificon II Committeeman Bill Donaho, was mailed to a select group of Bay Area fans (including ourselves) and several geographically strategically located fans throughout the country. It was (ha!) marked "DNQ."

2. The "Boondoggle" was prepared and distributed by Bill Donaho without the knowledge of the Committee, thus creating a situation in which the Committee had to support him in acting upon its imputations.

3. A pseudo-legalistic hearing was held by the Committee on Friday, January 24, at Bill Donaho's house. The charges against Breen implied in the "Boondoggle" were "formally" presented at this time. Walter was invited to attend and bring witnesses (eight, as a matter of fact, was the permitted number, thank you). In spite of our specific statement that Walter was absent from the "hearing" on our advice because his presence would have dignified and given credence to what were clearly kangaroo court proceedings, Bill Donaho insisted that his absence was an admission of guilt. (Of course, a copy of the "Boondoggle" had been mailed to Walter: it was put into the mails on the day of the "hearing.") At the outset of the hearing, the Committee declared its intention to cancel Walter's Pacificon II membership.

4. Since the Committee, as stated at the so-called "hearing," had already made up its mind to cancel Walter's membership, and since the "Boondoggle" had created a highly prejudicial atmosphere, the accused, rather than the accuser, was placed in the position of bearing the burden of proof--and without any advance notice of the details of the charges against him.

5. No attempt was made by the Committee to discuss the matter privately with Walter. Bill Donaho certainly made this impossible when he distributed the "Boondoggle," several weeks before the hearing.

6. Our names were used in the "Boondoggle" without our knowledge and certainly without our permission--which would not have been forthcoming in any event.

7. Misstatements of fact regarding Walter's activities, personally known to us, were made in the "Boondoggle," and no equally broadcast publication, or for that matter any publication whatsoever, of this has been made by Bill or the Committee.

8. At the "hearing," those of us who attended in Walter's interest succeeded in extracting a promise from the committee to wait until February 10 before taking final action regarding his membership, in order to permit Walter to obtain the legal counsel to which under any circumstances he was entitled. On February 8, Bill Donaho received written notice from Walter's legal counsel for the Committee to cease and desist. When Walter and several friends arrived at Bill Donaho's house early in the evening of February 10, they were denied admission. (One talked his way in and had a conversation with Bill. The details of this conversation have not been conveyed to us, but this person's support of Walter remains unchanged.)

9. Walter's membership was subsequently formally canceled. This was announced in Starspinkle before Walter was notified. (Nice, tactful, and considerate.)

10. Subsequently, someone delivered to the Berkeley police a copy of the "Boondoggle" and other fan publications, and police inquiries have started.

11. The parents whose names were used in the "Boondoggle" without their knowledge or permission vigorously and justifiably resent the imputation of parental neglect implied thereby, particularly in view of the police interest which has followed.

12. A local non-member of the Committee, who has allied himself closely with the Committee in a sort of "advisory" capacity, has threatened a prominent local fan because of his opposition to Bill Donaho's actions. (Can you imagine!)

13. We count five fans in the Bay Area outside of the Committee itself who actively support the Committee's actions and find no fault with Bill Donaho's "Boondoggle." None of these is a parent. But we count fourteen fans in the Bay Area, ten of them parents of young children, who actively oppose the Committee's action and find the "Boondoggle" inexcusable. We list their names, with their permission:

1. Ed Clinton (parent)
2. Jessie Clinton (parent)
3. Jerry Knight
4. Miri Knight
5. Bob Chazin (parent)
6. Carol Chazin (parent)
7. Ray Nelson (parent)
8. Kirsten Nelson (parent)
9. Ardis Waters (parent)
10. Prentiss Choate (parent)
11. Gretchen Choate (parent)

THANKS TO BILL DONAHO--page 3

- 12. Marcia Frendel (parent)
- 13. Mimi Bistrow
- 14. Danny Curran

(Dave Rike has concurred with our feelings but has not been able to read this statement, so we can't fairly add his name to this list.)

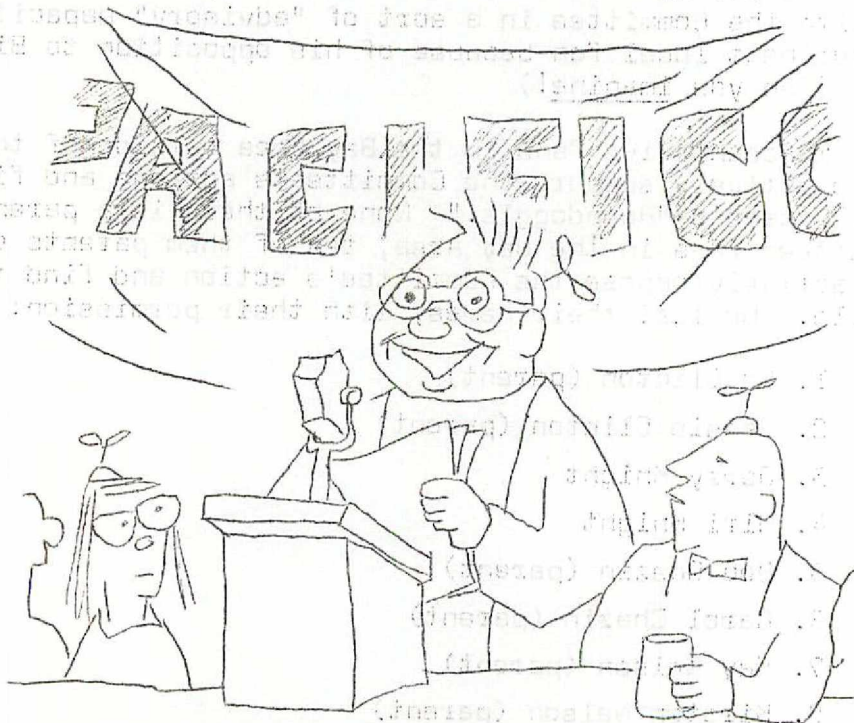
So it appear that there is more to this than the Committee or Bill Donaho has disseminated, We think it only fair that this other information be made equally common knowledge.

It also occurs to us that Bill Donaho may be kind of annoyed at us. That's a dirty shame. We're sore as hell at him. You down there in L.A., and you elsewhere--just think how pleasant things are in Berkeley these days, and how nice "Copcon I" will be!

Thanks to Bill Donaho.

--Ed Clinton  
 Jerry Knight  
 Miriam Knight  
 Jessie Clinton

###



Ladies and gentlemen,  
 little monster fans,  
 and plainclothesmen...

*Ray Nelson*



[Admittedly a biased selection. I am confining myself to those parts which seem relevant to the discussion herein. Some parts are simply historical recounting, some are philosophical meditations, and a couple of parts are just nasty enough so that I don't care to see them in print in more general distribution than they already are in the form in which they were originally composed. It may be charged that this emasculates the original "Boondoggle" and, of course, it does. Those who haven't seen a copy should bother Bill Donaho for one. A large part of the effect of the original depends on the way in which it is written rather than what is written. However, the following portions are all germane: --Al Lewis]

[Two introductory paragraphs. The narrative begins with:]

In the beginning the only anti-Walter people were the Gibsons and Danny Curran. Joe let it be known that he kept a loaded revolver on his mantle and that if Walter ever showed up at the Gibson's, he would use it. And of course Walter was one of the people Joe had in mind when he wrote that SHAGGY article. Danny also lost no opportunity of putting Walter down. I once accused him of being Square. Danny said, "Hell, it's not that. You know I have homosexual friends. But I think Walter is a shit. And this is a handy club to hit him with."

So, at first Berkeley was indifferent to Walter's sex life. This gradually began to change. There were two main causes for this. At a GGFS meeting at the Rogers', Sid walked into her son's bedroom--age 13--to find him in bed with Walter, with Walter's arm around him. They were watching TV. (Walter is incredible.) Sid wasn't about to take this. She didn't make a scene at the time, but from then on, someone else was anti-Walter. Thenceforth the Rogers kids were under instructions to retire into their room and barricade the door with furniture whenever Walter was in the house. They did too. Sid wanted to ban Walter from the house entirely, but Alva felt great reluctance to reject any fan.

Most people were rather amused by this incident, feeling that the kid could say "No" and even if he said "Yes" the experience probably wouldn't hurt him any. After all, Walter is so child-like himself that it would be just as if the kid were playing around with another kid. And quite apart from the sexual connotations some people were outraged that an adult could prefer the society of children to that of adults, as Walter does.

The second cause was Walter's sex play with 3-year old Poopsie Ellington. He had her trained up to the point where she would take off her clothes the minute she saw him. He would then "rub her down" and all that. I recall one occasion--a fairly large gathering at the Nelson's--in which he also used a pencil, rubbing the eraser back and forth in the general area of the vagina, not quite masturbating her. (Walter is incredible!) Many people were somewhat displeased by this--most particularly her parents. No one thought he was actually psychologically damaging Poopsie (she being so young)--obviously Dick and Pat would have interfered if they thought he had been--but the spectacle was not thought to be aesthetically pleasing. Years later Walter found out about the reaction and said, "But why didn't somebody say something! I wouldn't have dreamed of doing it if I'd thought someone objected."

There was of course more than one incident of sex-play with Poopsie. That was just the most spectacular one. I thought "Walter obviously isn't going to stop this as Poopsie grows older and more appealing. Sooner or later Dick is going to think she's been hurt. Now Dick--as do most bohemians--may think it's approaching immorality to reject anyone for any reason, and particularly any fan, but Killing in certain circumstances is perfectly moral. Now I wonder..." However, it didn't come to that. Dick let it be known that Walter was to stop this forthwith.

[There follows a page and a half wherein Walter is supposed to have been surprised on a couch in a moderately compromising attitude with ten-year old Glen; the supposed eyewitness is unnamed. Several statements by unidentified fans are reported wherein Walter is reported to have bragged of this affair, and Walter is reported to have had a run-in with Danny Curran wherein Danny denied Walter access to the son of his current mistress while Walter tried to explain that he wasn't interested. This is followed by references to Subbud, the East Indian Cult that Walter was interested in, and...]

But now at last to our main story. Perhaps due to Subbud's reassurance, Walter's recent behaviour has been getting many Berkeley parents not just alarmed, but semi-hysterical. If Walter is in the same room with a young boy, he never takes his eyes off the kid. He'll be semi-abstractedly talking to someone else, but his eyes will be on the boy. And if the kid goes to the bathroom, Walter gets up and follows him in. (Walter is incredible.)

...By now there were three main attitudes in Berkeley:

- (1) Walter is evil and should be locked up.
- (2) Walter is sick and should be helped--against his will if necessary.
- (3) Walter is an intelligent and nice guy. None of this is important. He understands and loves children.

About this point Al Halevy decided that whether Walter is evil and sick is irrelevant; there is no reason why we have to put up with him and we should excrete him. As is Al's wont, he waxed very enthusiastic about this project. He encountered stout opposition, but he also fanned the anti-Breen embers into full flame....

Here's the evidence we have, some of it being pretty good.

(1) Eyewitness accounts of his sex play with Poopsie, following Tony Clinton into the bathroom (possibly similar things with other children), Walter's being in bed with Bill Rogers, and of the time he and Glen were surprised on the couch. Cross-examination might minimize some of these, but not all I think.

(2) Somewhat guarded admissions by Walter in TESSERACT and other fanzines and somewhat less guarded ones in the Cult. But the most damaging ones are very guarded indeed as in TESSERACT where he defended abstractly teachers having sex with their teen-age male pupils, saying "What is really wrong with this?" But of course he has always claimed in public that this was an intellectual discussion and he didn't really believe that.

(3) Statements by Walter in letters (some of these letters have been destroyed, but fortunately not all. Can someone testify to the contents of a letter they threw away, Jack? [Speer])....Besides the destroyed letters a further difficulty is the reluctance of many people to bring this correspondence to light. But this would diminish somewhat in the case of a genuine suit. [By Breen, for libel.]

(4) Quite a number of Statements made by Walter in person to three or four different people--particularly the Glen affair, but also his homosexuality in general. But again a reluctance to testify is manifest. Not refusal--reluctance.

[The remainder of "Boondoggle" is devoted to an account of the history of the idea of expelling Walter from the local fan-clubs and from the Convention, and a discussion of whether he is or is not dangerous, deciding in the affirmative, and stating that Donaho's goal will be "to perform a surgical operation, separating Walter and fandom."]



FROM THE NEUTRAL CORNER

by Dick Ellington

[Excerpted from an Open Letter to MINAC, with open permission from D.E.]

...From the tenor of remarks and widesweeping references to "Berkeley Fandom" I gather that you think a large number--perhaps a majority--of the fans in the area are taking part in this anti-Breen business. I have no intention of speaking for anyone else in the area--just my wife and myself. Kindly note (and remember that you could have asked first) that we are not members of the Pacificon II committee--nor have we ever been, nor are we privvy to any of their secret war councils. We are not members of any local clubs and attend very few of their affairs, even the open ones. We were not consulted by Donaho or anybody else before he published "Breen Boondoggle." We did not and do not acquiesce with his ideas or actions in the subject....

...Personally, I don't give a tinker's damn about Walter Breen--note I said personally. He's just not one of those people that turns me on, and much of his life and living as known to me I find personally distasteful and definitely lacking in cool....

...An individual's reputation is not made so much by him or her, but by other people. At present my daughter is just about six years old. Both Pat and myself enjoy fandom--at least some aspects of it--and would like very much to remain in fandom on a more or less permanent basis. But when I start thinking about my daughter growing into a teenager and being continually reminded by the fannish yokels who collect such trivia about this whole thing--with nothing but such drivel as you and Donaho have put out to base their remarks on--well, I don't like it at all....

...You refer, as Donaho did not, to "child molestation" in connection with my daughter and Walter.... Donaho's description, though a trifle overdone to my thinking, was moderately accurate overall. Walter obviously liked Popsie and she him, and, while I found some of his actions mildly distasteful, they were certainly completely harmless and I did not attempt to stop him or interfere with him. I did, however, keep an eagle eye on him at all times around my daughter, based on the vague rumors as to his activities with children I heard drifting around. I might note that I do the same with a few other fans that have been in this area. As, concurrently, Walter's attentions began to be a bit more effuse and Popsie began to grow from a state of infancy into a little girl, I simply put a stop to it. I did not put Walter down completely, particularly as far as fandom was concerned. He has a right to his eccentricities, as far as I am concerned.

You also state in a quite positive manner that my daughter had enjoyed "...a fantastic reputation for wildness, willfulness and getting drunk at parties (at age three!)" The last statement is, plainly and simply, a lie. The only time Poop ever got mildly squiffed was once, in New York, when, as a toddler, she managed to get sips of too many drinks without anybody noticing. The rest of the statement is about 60% plain old balderdash....

And before you start bellowing "What about Donaho?" let me remind you that Donaho is a close friend of long standing.... In spite of that I found his remarks objectionable as hell; I told him so in no uncertain terms and Pat did so even more volubly and he apologized....

# # #

by Bob Lichtman

"I like Walter Breen. I'm a friend of his." These are the words of Bill Donaho, in an article he wrote and had published in THE WALTER BREEN APPRECIATION ISSUE, June 1962. 1962 was also the year of the organization of the Church of the Brotherhood of the Way, which published a mimeographed one-page leaflet which proclaimed in large letters, "All Men Are Brothers," and went on to say, "The purpose of the Church...is to make the Nelson pledge more meaningful to its members and to spread brotherhood on these terms to the entire human race. The religious society known as the Church of the Brotherhood of the Way offers not salvation but brotherhood..." The patriarchal leader of this church was Bill Donaho.

In light of recent happenings, 1962 seems like a million years ago in time and thought. Here are some more recent statements, from the BOONDOGGLE publication: "I think Walter is sick, extremely sick. And if he is evil, it's because he's sick. But I certainly don't want to hurt him." And, "While many people of course want to get Walter committed and out of circulation entirely, my own goals are more modest. I want to perform a surgical operation, separating Walter and fandom." And, "I'm certainly not going to protect or defend Walter or even try to argue with those who want to commit him. Nevertheless I shrink from this myself." These are all the words and opinions of Bill Donaho. Not much similarity to the 1962-model Donaho, is there?

Here is what has happened. Bill Donaho gets it in his mind that Walter Breen is a public menace. However, no one in fandom is particularly aware of Breen's activities and doesn't really care that much, anyway. This will never do, so Donaho publishes BOONDOGGLE, containing much highly distorted and exaggerated charges of Breen's activities, and circulates it to a select mailing list with the following opening exhortation: "This article is most emphatically a Do Not Print, Do Not Quote and Most Especially Do Not Elab My Name When You Mention This Letter Substitute." In fandom, this is tantamount to an open invitation to spread around the subject matter involved. (Later, Donaho removed the DNQ anyway and sent out a lot more copies of the publication.) Then, having insured a negative reaction to Breen on the part of fandom, a pretty square and easily shocked group on the whole, he proceeds to hold a kangaroo court and finally to cancel Walter's Pacificon membership.

I approve neither of the action nor of the methods employed. It reminds me in a very directly negative way of the methods used by Senator Joe McCarthy to smear people who were communists back in the 30's but who had since completely repudiated the CP and all it stands for. Donaho disapproves of the methods employed by the House Un-American Activities Committee; he even participated in the demonstrations in San Francisco in 1960 (see old HABAKKUKs). It is a paradoxical thing to see Donaho now using the very same smear tactics which he once so deplored in effectively ruining the reputation of one fan. For no matter whether or not words being written in defense of Walter have any immediate effect, the smear of Breen's name will, despite them, live in fandom's annals in the same way that Laney's writings on Los Angeles fandom still haunt the present-day RASFS.

It is not my purpose in this brief article to defend Walter Breen -- others are doing that as best they can, perhaps better than I could -- but rather to point out the inconsistencies of one man who has set himself up as moral judge, jury and hander-down of verdicts.

--Bob Lichtman, March 1964

"...We [Rike & Donaho] appreciate Walter; we are grateful for him; we are, we hope, sensitive to him; we desire to be fully aware of Walter, to recognize him for what he is: a human being.

"For far too long, the evaluation of a fan's personality by another fan has consisted solely of either wishy-washy pap or rancorous polemic; the fan under discussion did not emerge as a live human being, functioning in this world, but rather as a flat, two-dimensional character, an object of either praise or ridicule...I hope that Bill's article will introduce into fan writing the feeling for a person in depth, in contrast to the now all too current shallow expressions of petty feelings and biases...

"...While Bill is critical of Walter, he is nevertheless sensitive to him, so that he uses gentle persuasion instead of a direct frontal assault. Instead of 'telling all' about Walter, and exposing him to possible attack and ridicule, he has chosen instead to discuss that part of Walter...created in person and in the fan press...I feel that a [wider] distribution [of this publication] would tend to clarify and set straight the image that many people have of Walter...

"Far too often...people do not view the whole body of material that Walter has put into circulation in Fandom, but rather read and pick up on certain portions of his productions...while ignoring or forgetting a mass of other material. This selective remembering is further distorted when these people discuss Walter with other fans...or in a fanzine by concentrating on just those facets of Walter they feel are 'interesting'. And so it goes. . ."

---Dave Rike, Introduction "The  
Walter Breen Appreciation Issue"---

"...[Walter] prejudices a lot of people against him. It makes it easy for people to dismiss his contributions, accomplishments, etc. "Oh don't pay attention to that. . . that goofy-looking nut said/did it." And this sort is said -- even by people who should know better..."

"Another cited example of Walter's subjectivity is his 'inconsiderateness', and it is significant that no one believes that Walter is deliberately inconsiderate...He doesn't realize what is expected of him in a social situation or when he is stepping on someone's toes. He observes what most people consider the most elementary social rules...with a minimum of irritation and fuss...."

"Unfortunately, however, Walter blocks out quite a bit about people and their reactions. He has none of those emotional feelers which tell him how other people are reacting or the sort of things they react to...Of course this blocking may be a protective device which is vitally necessary. Walter is extremely sensitive and is so easily hurt that if he didn't block he would be in very sad shape indeed.--particularly as he seldom if ever gets angry so is denied even that alleviation of his hurt...In spite of his lack of emotional feelers, Walter has tremendous empathy with a lot of people. Ray Nelson said, 'Walter's close friendship is stronger than most people's



## QUOTES FROM AN OLD FANZINE--page 2

love, and his love is a strong emotion indeed.' It's as if he isn't able to be selective about his emotional insulation? It's either not there at all or it's all there....

"But even with all of this...Walter has been able to maintain a child-like sense of wonder and freshness of outlook such as is conditioned-out of most of us before we leave adolescence -- it we retain it until then-- And it is wonderous strange to me that Walter has this sense-of-wonderish quality combined with extreme intellectualization.

"Another example of Walter's lack of emotional feelers is his frequent misreading and misinterpretation of things people are saying -- things obvious to everyone else. This is almost always because Walter takes things too literally, being unaware of nuances. I am frequently amazed by the things Walter misunderstands. I think that many of these misunderstandings are caused by lack of common experience and reactions as well as the lack of feelers....Walter is unusual. He has different tastes and reactions and memories from most of us. Naturally he is going to see things differently. And equally naturally a lot of communication is dependent upon common experience and/or reactions. .Walter is going to miss alot of points because of this...."

---Bill Donaho, In A World He Never Made, "Breen Appreciation Issue"---

"...Misreading and misinterpreting of 'things people are saying'... if true, then partly for Donaho's reasons, partly from being literally a newcomer and having to proceed on insufficient data. The sixteen years blanked out by amnesia may have something to do with it as well..."

---Walter Breen, Rebuttal, "Breen Appriciation Issue", June. 1962---

I pledge my life and all I own to you and to any other man or woman who will make the same pledge with me. I will not knowingly act against you and if you call on me for help I will not refuse you. I will not rest content until you have food, clothing, shelter, and I will care for your children as if they were my own. If you are sick I will nurse you. If you are hunted I will hide you. If you are lonely I will talk to you. Let us stand together so that mankind will not die by its own hand.

Pledge of the Church of the Brotherhood of the Way, written by Ray Nelson, and subscribed to by Bill Donaho, "Patriarch" of said Church, as recognized legally by the State of California.

Walter Breen has recently been ostracized, threatened, and raved about here in Berkeley. His inhibitions are fewer than generally considered socially acceptable; he isn't a compulsive heterosexual. He likes people, including children, and is affectionate toward them.

Technically, this might make him a child molester or a statutory rapist (I'm not sure what age divides molested children from raped statutes), but this might include many of us (who checks birth certificates at a time like that?). This is not necessarily "wrong"; most fans do things which is considered "wrong" in other places or with other people. They take the name of the Lord in vain, or indulge in oral-genital stimulus, or other "lewd and unnatural acts", or drive faster than the posted speed limit on the highway.

Even if Walter's actions are "wrong" (and he has not done anything which resulted in arrest, so nothing has been proven), that still wouldn't justify the disgusting type of action which has been taken against him now.

People are trying to keep Walter from attending the World Con. Seems his very presence would ruin fandom's (doubtless) lily-white reputation. But he's attended many cons already without doing so. And with numerous other convention regulars priding themselves on being "dirty-old-men" with whatever illegal or "wrong" actions that may entail, it would be hard to preserve fandom's reputation by excluding only Walter Breen. But there's the other objection; seems the convention committee (or someone) is legally responsible for Walter's actions. Are they also responsible for the theft, fornication, adultery, statutory rape, and illegal possession of liquor by a minor which goes on at conventions? Too many fans have bragged of their sexual exploits, or the number of blankets and glasses they've stolen at conventions for the committee to use this as a very convincing argument. It is difficult to convince me that someone else is responsible for one person's actions.

Some fans have told Walter never to enter their home after months of "soul searching" during which I guess it never occurred to them to ask him to cease the actions which offended them. Or perhaps they feared they would appear unsophisticated or old-fashioned if they told him not to put his arms around their children while sitting next to them. It was easier, instead, to hurt Walter in this manner.

Donaho has published a statement that he knew of someone with characteristics similar to Walter's, who later became a murderer. It is implied that Walter is therefore a potential murderer. This isn't logic; it is a cheap rhetorical trick -- the kind of thing that is supposed to lead you into agreeing with the writer without examining the subject for yourself. I know a fan who is an unkind, malicious bigot; but not all fans are like that. Not all redheads are selfish, insipid bores, although I once knew one who was. And Walter Breen is not necessarily a potential murderer, no matter how many murderers share his fondness for chocolate.

People have told me, in all seriousness, with obvious belief in the veracity of their statements, that Walter Breen is absolutely ruthless and will stop at nothing to achieve his ends. This is sheer nonsense; he's not a bogeyman, or a were-creature. He's just a human.

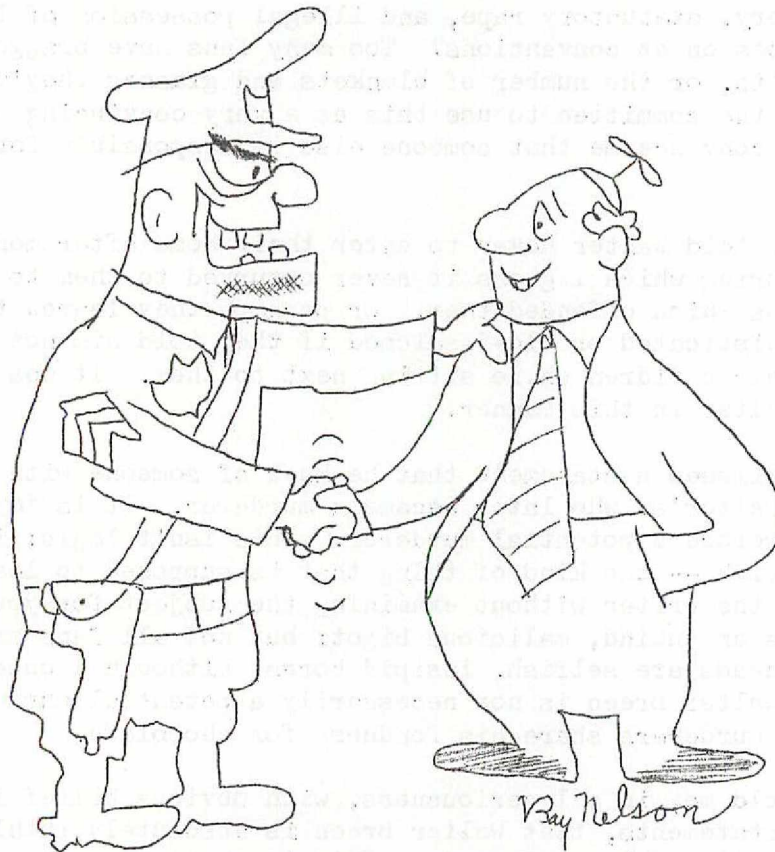
Untrue rumors about Walter have been embellished and spread. For example, no matter what you've heard, no one entered his home unexpectedly

and found him doing anything with anyone. His door is always locked whether he is home or not and anyone who knows him well enough to consider entering without knocking would know this.

There are fans who think the actions taken against Walter are unjust, but think it's fine anyway because they don't like him. Justice is for friends, fair play for people who share their petty prejudices, and humane treatment for beautiful blondes only.

One can stand up for one's beliefs with honest action, instead of backstabbing. One can say, "Please don't take the name of the Lord in vain in my home" or, "Please don't use my mail-box to steal from book and record clubs", or "Don't fondle my children". When Walter offends me, I ask him to modify his behavior; so do some other people. None of us are complaining about Walter's actions. It is the people who use dishonest, devious or malicious means of dealing with what they consider undesirable, who have the problem, within themselves.

----Ardis Waters----



Thanks loads, Mr. Exfan, for selling us your fanzine collection. We'll let you know how many convictions we get.



## A LETTER FROM DON FITCH

"I've heard a lot of Berkeley Stories about Breen; I admire Berkeley Stories for their polished artistry, but I usually don't believe them entirely. ...Those stories have built up an Image, which they then developed and perpetuated.

"I feel that the Convention Committee, and particularly Bill Donaho, has acted very unwisely. From all I have heard, Breen could have been expected to have been amenable to a private conversation warning him to limit his actions or activities at the convention. It appears very much as though Donaho's action is simply an extension of his need for bolstering his sense of self-importance as previously expressed in armchair psychoanalysis (aka "Telling People What's Wrong With Themselves") at parties and conventions. It seems clear that the purpose of "Boondoggle" is not to ask advice, or to justify the exclusion of Breen from the Convention, but to perform the surgery of separating him from fandom. The Operation has already been begun, without the permission of the patient, and I, as a member of fandom and thus a part of the patient, am annoyed at this assumption of authority by Donaho....

"If I had the literary ability, I'd write up a set of Rules for some future convention--'All applicants for membership submitted by married couples must be accompanied by five notarized testimonials attesting to the Moral Purity of the applicant,' &cet.

"It's only a matter of time, I suppose, until someone loses patience and slips a copy of Boondoggle...into an envelope and sends it to the D.A. &/or the Hotel Manager. The Convention Committee had better be damned sure that none of the attendees are known to have police records, or to be users or distributors of drugs, or to be leading an Immoral Life, by accepted social standards. The Committee had also better be sure to warn all the attendees that there will probably be a lot of house detectives and plain-clothes officers around at the convention, and that it would be highly unwise to engage in such Illegal Activities as furnishing cigarettes or intoxicating beverages to underage persons, using profane or obscene language in a public place, being drunk in public places, or defrauding an innkeeper by allowing more people to sleep in a hotel room than are registered as paying occupants of that room. Presumably, the police and the hotel employees will be checking all these things quite thoroughly....

"From various bits of Internal Evidence, a bunch of things Walter Breen is being accused of doing seem to have happened as long as 3 or 4 years ago-- why was nothing done about it then? Indeed, what were all these people who are now so Indignant doing then? Sitting around and watching, apparently, and maybe drinking beer and discussing The Church of the Brotherhood of the Way.... Can it be that they lacked the moral fiber to stand up (either privately or in public) to Breen and say "I object, Stop That!'" Did they have that much fear of being thought Square and Less Tolerant than Everyone Else?

"...In summation, however, I am not so much For Breen as Against the techniques and tactics used to handle the situation, by the Convention Committee, and Donaho in particular."

## MORE EXERPTS FROM LETTERS, ZINES, ETC.

JOHN BOARDMAN: "Bill Donaho has convened a coterie of Berkeley fans, held with tragicomic formality a 'court of inquiry,' and decreed that Walter Breen should be seperated from fandom. The amazing thing about this whole incident is that some fans are conceding Donaho's right to constitute this tribunal, and are debating the 'verdict' as if the doings of such tribunals were creditable...."

"Even at this 'trial,' at which Walter stood accused of child molestation, there were people to defend him...chief among them the parents of the children Breen is alleged to have molested!"

PRENTISS CHOAT: "...Anything published could be used in a lawsuit or a criminal prosecution...:"

"The reason one can no longer keep silent is that this is just what Donaho and his supporters are hoping for; that everything will die down and be forgotten by the time of the Con. Also that a number of the falsities on which they base their case will go unchallenged. Bill knows he has the defense at a big disadvantage; they are very concious of the legal threat and fear to speak completely frankly, lest something they say be used against Walter...whereas the attackers don't give a god damn; they had to decide they didn't care what happened to Breen or his friends (since he is a monster and beyond the pale of moral treatment) in order to justify doing what they've done against him in the first place (as 'Boondoggle' makes abundantly clear).

"That's why what is really needed--a paragraph by paragraph refutation of 'Boondoggle'--will probably never be written; those who might write is are too aware of the possibility that somebody might be further embarrassed or endangered. 'Boondoggle' has such a superficial plausibility, such a good pretense of being factual, that people are going to be taken in by it...until someone reduces it to the mound of wildly distorted reports, innuendo, pious doubletalk and begged questions it really is...."

"Now if there be any among you who could not be convicted of a felony if the right person appeared to testify against him, let him step forward and start casting stones...We can't afford to judge each other on the basis of what we've been or done in the past; but one thing which should count is how hard a person tries to change. Walter Breen has made as powerful an effort to break the pattern of a lifetime as just about anyone I've known...When he learned he was persona non grata in certain homes he was only too glad to stay away, even to cease attending GGFs to pacify his enemies there. The only thing Walter has ever asked of those who can't stand him is that they leave him alone.

"So...just when it seems Breen's diligence is paying off and he finds himself a fine woman and is on the verge of straightening out altogether, Donaho publishes Boondoggle and smears Walter's name from one end of fandom to the other. Just when it could now destroy 2 people's lives instead of one...."

"S'far as I know there's not much likelihood of a suit; Breen is seeking only to protect himself, not make trouble for others (and wouldn't you hire a lawyer is you were publicly accused of a crime of that magnitude?), and the half dozen or so people closest to Walter have already been upset, humiliated and jeopardized more than enough by what's happened so far...."

[Choate, ctd.] "Why would he do this?...I still have the devil's own time accepting the fact that the only motives that seem possible in this case really exist in human nature; I want to shut my eyes violently and say, 'There must be some mistake--perhaps Bill just doesn't understand something eruther' and make another attempt to reason with him.

"This is not possible. Donaho understands only too well, and any words spoken to him can be counted upon to be perverted into further ammunition against Breen. This is the underside that the sanctimonious pastor-of-the-Church-of-the-Brotherhood-of-the-Way mask is designed to conceal; the same inner cesspool that causes the yahoos to scream for the death penalty for the latest convict in order to scapegoat-ize their own guilt and self-hatred...."

MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY: "Bill Donaho, in Boondoggle, indicated that he had no personal animosity against me and even expressed a hope that my influence might be beneficial to Walter. Since that day, however (Donaho is unbelievable) he has circulated, in letters, a slander about me which--in addition to being provably false--is so unbelievably foul that I cannot repeat it here. When apprised of this slander, our lawyer warned us not even to send a copy of it through the U.S. mails but to have it delivered in person to her office! Now, I'm not the kind to worry about what some fan might say about me--I'm mentioning this only to point out, to Boondoggle readers, the peculiar variety of doublethink which lies behind Donaho's alleged mind. From being a person who might possibly exert a good influence over Walter, I have become a person who could only drag Walter down to even deeper depths of depravity!

"Why this should be so, I have no idea. I didn't study abnormal psychology long enough to understand the workings of such a mind. I mention it only to show that Donaho no longer knows what he thinks--he is animated now only by a frantic desire to prove that he was Right All Along, that anyone who defends Walter Breen is worse than Walter. He is going to 'prove' this, even if he has to contradict himself a hundred times over--and he seems to have made a good start already."

WALTER BREEN: "...The police inspector saw me at his office;...someone had turned over to the inspector copies of Boondoggle, Panic Button and Tesseract #1. He was interested in the "sent in plain envelope" running gag, and I pointed out that it was a gag and that I had not sent anything.... I have no way of knowing whether the investigation will be quashed....But (says my lawyer) if I hear nothing more from them in the next three months or so, it will probably be counted as a complaint by a crack-pot...."

"As things now stand, the Pacificon will be as thoroughly infiltrated with plainclothes...as a Communist Party con would be with F.B.I. types; drunken parties will be o\*u\*t, as will sleeping free & non-registered, open snogging, or sharing beds with available females. (I have this from my lawyer, who has it from knowledge of local police tactics. And the Oakland fuzz are millions of times worse than the Berkeley types.)"

[Ed. Note: We have seen a letter, signed by Bill Donaho, admitting that it was he--Donaho--who sent the Boondoggle, etc. to the Berkeley police. We cannot quote that letter, of course; we haven't Donaho's permission to do so. We're reasonably sure, however, that Bob Lichtman (who has the letter) or Don Fitch would varify that it did, indeed, make such a statement. --j&bt--]



Boondoggle was a malicious and unnecessary publication. It was not a request for advice, as Donaho coyly says, as much a passing of gossip to all who might listen -- and spread it. An honest request for advice does not distort and exaggerate facts, as Donaho has admitted doing. The rest of the Pacificon Committee has said that Bill did not have permission to use anyone's name, or to publish and mail out Boondoggle in the first place. In spite of this, Donaho mailed two runs of the zine, the second mailing list being large enough to include a section of fandom which could not possibly be interested with concom business at all.

A convention committee has the right to bar anyone from a convention for any reason it chooses. We do not argue this right to act in the interests of a convention. However, there were many methods which could have been used to oust Breen (or anybody else) that wouldn't have ruined the con for the rest of the attendees. As it stands now, how many filk sings or parties will there be without Breen being dragged beard-first into every conversation?

Admittedly, almost any move to bar someone from a convention is going to cause a fuss of some sort. But a little finesse could have cut down on the general ribble, and made this publication unnecessary, by making a quieter show of the whole affair. For instance, Breen could have been told a week or so before the con (without a Boondoggle to Tell the World), which would have been too late for news to reach many fans before the con started. By the time all rumors reached the attendees, the con would have been over.

The Pacificon Committee could have told Breen to stay away, and the chances are he would have found some "urgent" coin business which called him out of town that weekend. This would have saved face for all sides, and no one outside would have been the wiser. If Walter commented about the situation in his fanzines, he would have called embarrassment down on his own head, but he would not have been considered a martyr, having drawn the publicity on himself. Donaho has effectively made Walter Breen a "Cause", now.

Walter was never "officially" thrown out of the local clubs, but as soon as he heard that he was not welcome, he stopped going to meetings. This does not sound like a person who would bring notice to himself by publicizing the concom's actions, if he could have avoided it.

When I asked a Pacificon Committee member why the expulsion had been done now, the only answer I got was that it just had to be done now. It boils down to the fact that Boondoggle forced a hand much quicker than the concom would care to admit. Why they allowed this to happen, instead of making Donaho retract his statements, is difficult to understand. Why Donaho published in the first place is impossible to understand. Because of him, many dollars of our money is going into paying for a lawyer instead of for convention-oriented interests; to prosecute one lone fan who could have simply been told to stay away.

The suspicion that Boondoggle was published to unsure a FAPA blackball is fairly well grounded, for unless blackballed now, Breen is due to enter FAPA this month after four years on the waiting list. Redd Boggs and John Trimble have something to say about this, in extra flyers which will be mailed with this zine to apa members; anyone who wishes a copy may write us. However, a group which is in contact only through the printed page should be in no more danger from an alleged homosexual than from an alleged promiscuous female, or an alleged political deviate.

Fans are supporting Donaho, on his word alone, who do not realize that

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"The Great Breen Boondoggle" is the same type of spleen-zine as "Boil Out", attacking me, and "A Trip Through Hell", attacking Kemp; a tissue of half-truths, very old stories revived, and "interpreted", and an effective smear campaign aimed at those who cannot find out the truth for themselves.

If this sort of thing is allowed to continue, it can be tried on anybody. If you were suddenly faced with having to prove your innocence, could you? For instance, last weekend a certain femme-fan spent some time in an apartment with three men (fact: one man was her husband) and lots went on (talking). Later at another house there was a wild weekend of gambling (Brag), odd doings (putting out a fanzine) and then the female slept with three men (in the house). Written with a mind for maliciousness, a story like that could be quite damaging. "Quotes" and witnesses could be cited, and any attempts on the part of the innocent to straighten out the facts would bring the old "methinks they doth protest too much" cliché; a killing response used by Donaho to good effect in his campaign.

The police were given some fanzines by Donaho, and they called Breen in to question him. It may not stop there; others were named in Boondoggle who may also be questioned. But before the police become the villains of the piece; think of what they know of the case; according to Boondoggle, there will be a collection of pretty odd people gathering in their Fair City soon. Boondoggle accuses Breen of many things, and it also dondemns a good portion of Berkeley fandom, too, and these people will be at the con, even if Breen won't be. Donaho makes almost every parent listed in his zine out to be lax in their duties, sometimes waiting years to complain in behalf of their children; and then not to the proper authority. The police must investigate things like this called to their attention; it is to be expected.

How would it feel to wait three or four months to find out if the police are going to move in on you or not? This is happening now to Walter Breen; all based on accusations which cannot be disproved any more than proven.

To say that there won't be police at the con now is whistling in the dark. Those fanzines gave too much indication that this con should be investigated.

Coin conventions are as mundane as possible; women's dress includes hat, hose, and heels, and all the men wear ties. Children, especially little boys, flock to these gatherings, and love to meet Walter who is regarded as a special sort of person; a genuine authority on coins who will take the time and trouble to discuss collections with a kid. But coin people are the types who don't fret about being "square", they glory in it! They would not hesitate to bring in the police at the slightest hint of anything untoward concerning their children. Walter has contacted these kids after coin cons (a point used by Pacificon as a legal worry) and still no sign of trouble, yet he has been attending coin cons for years.

One of Walter's troubles is a case of amnesia which blocked out the first sixteen years of his life. This could explain the lack of social conscience which Donaho harps upon; with no background of ethics on which to draw, Walter commits many social gaffs which ordinary people might not pull. Friends of his either ignore it, or correct him on some point of social conduct which really bothers them. I have never heard of Walter not obeying his host or hostess when told to cease from some action or subject of conversation. This is why the people in this zine resent being "protected" by either the concom or Donaho; most of them feel that they are also quite able to protect their own children without outside policing of their acquaintances by Donaho or anybody else.

Now that Walter has a chance to live a "normal" life, with a fine woman, even that affair is placed in jeopardy. If it did not work out well, under ordinary circumstances both parties could go their own ways with a minimum of publicity. Now, any move away from Breen is pointed out with glee by his detractors as "proof" of his guilt. If Marion and Walter have any problems, she is still irrevocably aligned with him, or she seemingly "proves" Donaho's accusations correct. As it happens, she wants to stay at Walter's side as she has faith in him as a human being. But Donaho removed the element of choice for her by publishing Boondoggle when he did, knowing she was coming to the West Coast at that very time.

Several points were cleared up by Donaho in a private letter. They are all, he said, minor points and do not change the basic issue. Considering that the whole publication is based on minor points, it would seem that any changes would definitely make a difference. Donaho evidently wants the reader of Boondoggle to take everything he says at face value; otherwise, why hasn't he published the changes for everyone on the mailing lists of his zine, instead of just for a few fans who are already prejudiced in his favor? He did publish a sheet of "minutes" of the Feb 26th "hearing", which with true lack of prejudice, failed to identify any of those who appeared in Walter's behalf, or to present their arguments with more than a casual identification (not a summary) and dismissal.

Ardis takes care of one point, in her article, concerning the anonymous fan who supposedly walked in on Breen in a compromising situation. It might also be noted that both Glen and his mother, Marcia Frenkel, have filed legal depositions denying the accusations in Boondoggle.

Another small detail concerned the Rogers boy. Neither party was in bed, as Donaho claims, but were on top of the covers, watching TV. Breen was fully dressed, and the boy was in his shorts. The comment Donaho credits to the adult Rogers, telling their kids to barricade the doors against Breen has been denied by them to me.

Walter did not follow the Clinton boy into the bathroom, but into the bedroom, when the child was told to get ready for bed. One small detail Donaho forgot to add was that they were continuing a conversation, and Jessie Clinton was with the boy when Walter followed him in.

According to Boondoggle, Walter had Popsie Ellington "trained" to undress whenever he appeared, but in a private letter Donaho admits what is common knowledge; that the child undressed at any opportunity (a not unusual action for a child of 3 or 4) and Walter really didn't "train" her to do it. This was several years ago; Popsie is now school-age.

Danny Curran, a long-time friend of Donaho's and no particular friend of Breen's, felt strongly enough about Boondoggle to protest by adding his name to the list in this zine. It is easy to think, "But surely if Tony Boucher backs Donaho, there must be something in all this". However, the fact is that Boucher is the concom parliamentarian, and was invited to the "hearing" to act in that capacity. Donaho listed him as a supporter because he appeared, and banked on a pros natural reluctance of fan hassles to keep from being denounced by Boucher. When Marion came to Berkeley, Boucher threw a party for her and specifically invited Walter; this does not sound as if Donaho was correct in his statements.

Boondoggle's "facts" are not so shocking, minus the deft Donaho "interpretation". Other interesting points concerning the veracity of Donaho's facts are mentioned throughout this zine. He has even pulled a very old



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trick on me; writing to others and telling them that I am quite upset, and may possibly drop the art show because I am so mad. Unfortunately, his timing was off, and so I got word to calm down a full week before I could possibly know there was anything to get excited about! Redd Bogg got a letter - from a pro-Donaho fan far from the Bay area - suggesting that he help me calm down; much too early for me to have reacted. The routine is the same old "Bjo is picking on me. Well, she's not picking on me yet, but she's going to!". Certainly having a bunch of fans writing to me (and to others) telling me to calm down when I was calmed down is a calculated way to get me quite upset.

Before I had communicated with anyone by mail, or had talked to any Bay area fans, about my feelings on the matter, Donaho contacted Sid Rogers and told her that I was furious with the whole group. But I was especially angry with her in particular and would probably never speak to the Rogers again. Sid was therefore surprised when I phoned her on a recent visit North, and I was amazed to hear of this information; considering that I had never said or implied any such thing, even to local fans who could have spread this "news" to Donaho.

As far as my dropping the art show in a snit; while some fans are assured that there are others eager to take over if I do ("...but don't mention that around Bjo, she's so touchy..."), I'm not thinking of it. There will be a trophy sponsored by Walter Breen for as long as he wishes to sponsor it, and a con may give me trouble on that point, but so long as I get the room and the artists continue to support me, Project Art Show will continue, with me at the helm. I do have several people "in training" against the day I cannot attend a con personally, which is only natural planning. If I don't appear at Pacificon II, it will be because of the baby due in mid-August (or lack of funds because of same); not because of this silly mess. I don't approve of the idea of a rump con at all.

Silence on the part of people who disagree with him is a fine weapon in the hands of a slanderer. He uses the lack of protest against his methods to "prove" he is right and the person he is attacking is "guilty". For surely, he reasons loudly, if his accusations were wrong, people would speak out and cry "foul!"; as no one does, he rests his case on the silence.

There are many reasons for this silence. The most serious of which is the threat of legal action by Donaho or the Pacificon Committee, implied in Boondoggle, if anyone speaks out against their methods. That legal action can (and might) be taken against this magazine is possible, but it is a chance we are willing to take, to present the other side of the case.

Another trick to shut up opposition is to say "any intelligent person can see the truth in what Donaho has said", implying that only an idiot would disagree with him. The less courageous fans, to whom public opinion means much, will stay quiet in the face of this. In playing safe, these fans might remember that they could find themselves the victim of innuendo and "facts" they cannot disprove. How do you answer the kid who reads a 5 or 10-year-old spleen-zine and exclaims, "Say, aren't you the very same Joe Phann who...?" The person publishing such a zine (unless faced with actual lawsuit, not just threats) does not have to prove you innocent of his charges, nor does he have to publish another zine retracting the first one. Therefore, unless someone else speaks out, the slanderer's statements remain as the only written evidence for future fans to note and remember.

[continued on mailing page]

AND NOW COMES THE PART WHERE WE PASS THE HAT....

by Ray Nelson

In order to defend himself against legal (and illegal) attacks, Walter Breen has had to hire a lawyer, and good lawyers cost money. Walter is not a rich man. The outcome of Walter's case will affect all of us in fandom. Therefore I feel that it is up to us to chip in and help pay Walter's legal costs. I have already tossed something into the kitty, and I intend to put in even more--in fact, to give Walter's defense fund everything I had intended to spend at the Pacificon (which I now intend to boycott).

Jerry and Miriam Knight have agreed to handle the fund, and they will keep a record of the money sent in, so that if this money is not needed (though this seems more and more unlikely as time goes on), it will be returned to the donors in proportion to their donations.

Right now we have to raise \$500, whether we like it or not, but even such a large sum can be raised without too much hardship on any one person if we all give what we can.

Please send all donations to:

The Walter Breen Defense Fund,  
c/o Jerry and Miriam Knight  
1522 Russell Street  
Berkeley 3, California

There is now a small wave of anti-monster-fan sentiment, mostly set off by Boondoggle's hypocritical blaming of the concom's exclusion act on the possibility of "all those little kids" around. Although people don't seem to realize it, there are girl monster fans, too; young, nubile things ready for new experiences. The Pacificon doesn't seem alarmed about the heterosexual male fans who have long and loud declared their tomcat morals. Yet "child molesting" is homo- or heterosexually illegal in nature.

It is said that Forry promised Real Fans from monsterdom, and they haven't shown up yet. But at last Westercon, monster fans were all over Fritz Leiber because of his books; the Fafhrd adventures as well as the ones that had been made into horror movies. Monster fans were delighted with the huckster room, where the SF books Forry recommended in FMOF were on display and for sale. It is expecting a lot to want a bunch of 8 to 14 year olds to blossom into fandom and start publishing Great Fanzines and produce someone from their ranks that We BNFs may recognize as One Of Us. It is even more unfair to blame Forry and his fans for Boondoggle's silly excuses of so-called "moral responsibility".

In this state, one can't drink intoxicating liquors until 21 nor can one buy cigarettes legally until age 18. This law includes many con attendees who are not monster fans. When asked what they will do about under-age fans at drunken parties, a Pacificon committee member said that they'll just have to keep them out. There was no mention of any special entertainment being supplied to the minors of 19 and 20 while elder fans and all the pros got happily squiffed behind locked doors; the kids could talk to vice-squad men and sip root beer in the hall, perhaps.



I was in this Pacificon room party, see, when I set my drink down for a minute - and before I knew it, this little monster fan was draining my glass!



by Al Lewis

I feel that the Breen affair to date constitutes two quite distinct and separate questions which have been thoroughly confused. The first is the action of the Pacificon II Committee in barring Walter Breen from the convention. The second is the action of Bill Donaho in attempting to "perform a surgical operation, separating Walter and fandom."

A Con Committee has got to have freedom of action. They are responsible for the success of their convention, and they are legally responsible for its operation. They have a hard and thankless task; and one for which fandom as a whole should give them support. Sometimes this task becomes an unpleasant one, as when the Pittcon committee had to decide what to do about an obvious case of ballot box stuffing on the Hugo nominations. That was an obvious case; this one is less obvious. The Committee had what they felt was a critical problem regarding the mundane activities of one fan. After the publication of "Boondoggle" (and you may well ask why not before, but hindsight is a wonderful thing) the Committee consulted a lawyer to find out its exact legal position. Some fans resent a convention being bound by the laws of mundanity--resent it they may, but bound it is.

The Committee picked a highly competent lawyer: a Mr. Donald Curran, who handles all libel cases for the Oakland Tribune (former Senator Wm. F. Knowland's newspaper), also handles cases for the American Civil Liberties Union and is a member of a firm whose head is President of the California Bar Assn. According to Mr. Curran, whether or not legal proof existed, knowing Breen's reputation, the Committee would be legally an accessory under California law if a liason was formed at the Pacificon. Note, mind you, that it did not have to include an action taking place at the convention itself; if a liason were later developed through a meeting which had taken place at the convention, the Convention Committee would be liable for both civil and criminal damages, and unlike other fan conventions, this one is being held in Breen's home town. You may not like the law, you may consider it stupid, but it is the law. No Committee can be asked, in addition to all of the other grinding labor that goes into putting on a convention, to also accept liability for a many-thousand dollar law suit. Since the Committee honestly believed that Walter constituted a potential threat, both to protect their membership and to protect themselves, they had no choice but to bar Walter from the Convention. Whether or not you also believe that Walter constituted a potential threat does not matter--in the ordinary course of events one cannot second guess a Con Committee; presumably they have more facts upon which to base their decisions than anyone else, and whether the decision is right or wrong, it was made in good faith.

That much of the affair is the Committee's business; evidence that might cause the Committee to change its mind would be pertinent--otherwise, commentary by those less well-informed than the Committee is out of place. Unfortunately, however, the Committee did not choose to stay within these bounds--the publication of "Boondoggle" and the request for advice made it a general fannish concern. Opinions were asked for--this fanzine contains some of those opinions.

It is this dual action that has confused the issue; the Committee (actually Donaho--the Committee backed him up afterwards) wished to do two things: 1. Get Breen out of the convention. This falls within their proper function of Committeemen. 2. Get Breen out of fandom--this in their capacity of members of the fannish community at large. It is this second point that is being contested, and the members of the Committee are being criticized not as Committee members,

but as fans. "Boondoggle" was not necessary for the accomplishment of the first of the aims of this group; it was necessary for the accomplishment of the second.

Thus it appears that Breen is being persecuted. The methods the Committee used to expel Breen are detailed here because they seem symptomatic. The fact that Donaho also felt it necessary to embellish the truth seems to indicate that he felt that the factual material alone was not sufficiently convincing; he wished to create a climate of opinion unfavorable to Breen, and in that he was largely successful.

I don't particularly give a damn about Walter: if anybody is stupid enough to flout accepted sexual mores and brag about it in print, he should not be too surprised when people get upset about it.

What does concern me is that one fan--one fan whom I like and respect--felt it necessary to generate a vendetta, and to distort the truth to achieve his desired ends. The End does NOT justify the means, and never has; unjust means pervert the justest of ends. To mount a campaign of vilification, on a charge as thoroughly nasty as this one is, I find a most unworthy thing, without the strongest possible cause. Breen is about to marry, an event which should remove his alleged homosexual tendencies if anything can. I do not find that danger is clear and present. As nearly as I can figure, the only reason for "Boondoggle" at this time is to secure a FAPA blackball--and to deliberately set out to wreck a man's reputation for the sake of a goddam fan club is playing a bit too dirty for my taste.

I understand that there is a move afoot to organize a rumpcon--I dislike that idea intensely. The World Science Fiction Convention is a continuing entity, and deserves the support of all fans. Members of this Committee have taken actions for which they have been criticized. I feel that criticism is in order. You may attack the members of the Committee. But, please, let us not attack the Convention. The Committee and the Convention are not the same, despite the fact that the one is the operating group of the other. Last time fandom got into a real hassle of this sort, the WSFS was dissolved to get rid of its officers--and had to be put together all over again a few years later. Let us not make the same mistake.

A defense of Breen is in order. A criticism of anybody's activities by anybody is always acceptable (though not always in order). But to "punish" the Committee by attacking the Convention is not in order. It might be a thundering success. But what would a wracked Convention do to the Hugos, the Art Show, the competitors who have been aiming for a whole year at the Costume Ball, the panelists and speakers who have been trying to say something significant and interesting about the field of literature we all enjoy, not to mention the Guests of Honor? The Convention should be bigger than all the feuds in fandom.

Let's get some reason into this argument.

---al lewis.

SUMMING UP, continued...

Fans often say they wish to remain neutral, which translates into wanting to stay on safe ground until they are sure which side will win. There are a few people - very few - who sincerely try to remain neutral in a sordid mess like this, and they should be respected for the attempt. These people do not carry tales, add to already rampant rumors, or try to exert any influence beyond moderation for all sides.

Now that Donaho has dug everyone in as deeply as possible, there seems to be no solution which will not cause a lawsuit or at least much loss of face to someone. By publishing and distributing Boondoggle, Donaho made impossible the very thing he set out to do; Breen cannot quietly leave fandom, or he'll be admitting "guilt" by doing so. Surely a man and a fan as big as Donaho can admit that he made a bungle of this job and try to make some sort of amends. It seems to be up to him to make the first move to get everything back in proper perspective.

---Bjo---

OTHER MATERIAL on this business may be found in recent CULT fanzines (contact Don Fitch, 390<sup>o</sup> Frijo, Covina, Calif) for more details on that; they may not be given out to non-members.

Bill Blackbeard's fanzine, "Queen Anne's Revenge" was sent through the Shadow FAPA, and is now out of print; Bill has no more copies. However, if you can borrow a copy of QAR, it has some pro-Breen material, plus some interesting artwork, and other good fannish writings. QAR is worth getting on the mailing list for; 192 Mountain View, Los Angeles, Calif.

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