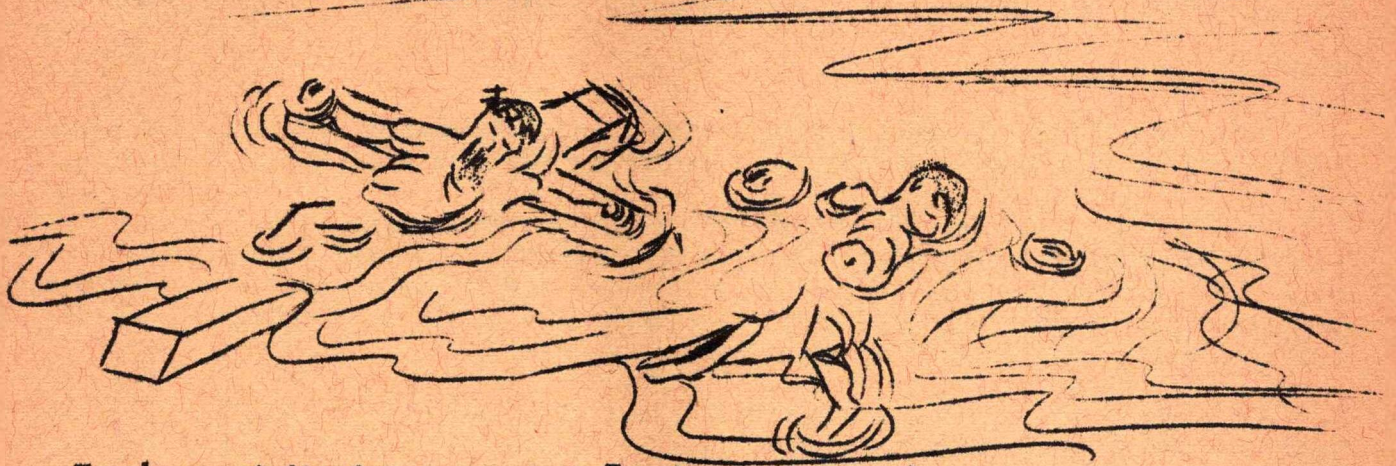


DREAM STUFF



Here's a weirdie for you amateur Freudians to unravel....

I was riding with a group of people, among whom was my husband, along a beach drive that I remember from a place I used to live as a child. As we approached the water's edge, I saw two objects lying in the water. One was a life-size crucifix, with the bottom of the cross partly on the shore, and the other was the spread-eagled figure of a man with a broken leg. I could see the openlipped gash in the leg, which was hanging loosely in the water, moving gently back and forth in the motion of the wavelets. Being in the forefront of the vehicle, I saw the figures first and even as I prepared to cry out and tell the others, I saw a convulsive movement of the chest and abdomen of the apparent corpse. I shouted,

"Look! He's alive... I saw him move!" Then I dashed out of the vehicle and into the water. I lifted the unconscious man's head and shoulders out of the water and cradled him against my breast to hold him out of the reach of the waves while the others busied themselves tending the badly broken leg.

"Better splint him where he lies," I remember admonishing them, although that was obviously what they were doing... Meanwhile I crooned comfort to the unconscious man, urging him back to life. Soon he began to stir, and started nuzzling my breast and crying like an unhappy child.

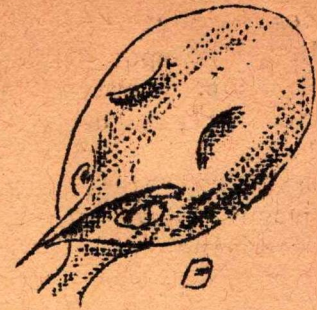
"Hurry, he's recovering consciousness," I urged. "He's still regressed at the infantile level now from pain and exhaustion, but he may regain consciousness at any time. Hurry and get it done before he wakes up and starts hurting..."

They finished splinting the leg and brought a stretcher, laid him on it, and carried him away. I was the last one left, so I waded over in the water to the crucifix which still floated there, ignored in the excitement over the injured man. I hoisted it onto my shoulder and started ashore. It was big and awkward to carry, but not very heavy.

The last thing I recall before I woke up, was trudging up the shore behind the rest of the group, all bent over carrying a life-size crucifix as big as myself.



LETTER BOWL



JEAN B. BOGERT, 200 Elmwood Ave., Narberth, Pa. Sept/Oct. 1959

Dear Gem:

I thought I'd write you a letter, since I enjoyed talking with you, and since I can't converse with you in person, this letter is the next best thing, I guess...

SWOOSH! I'm watching TV, and there's something purporting to be Science-Fiction, a juvenile-grade one, obviously, since it has swooshing meteors, becoming molten in the vacuum of space -- what's more, these meteors fly in formation! Even I know that isn't likely, but under the circumstances, this is a little more amusing to watch than the rest of the weekend morning fare.

For a while they reissued SPACE PATROL under the title of SATELLITE POLICE -- for no apparent reason that I can make out. I enjoyed it, anyway. Sad to relate, the program SATELLITE POLICE is no longer the new name for SPACE PATROL -- now they have something IMBECILIC called ROCKY JONES, SPACE RANGER. As near as I can figure out, the hero's nickname refers either to the rocklike immobility of his countenance, or to the rocks indubitably contained in his head. Most likely it's the latter.

There are the most glaring scientific errors in that thing that I have EVER seen. Not only do meteors "SWOOSH!" through outer airless space, but they also become molten while whizzing around in space. What's even funnier, not only do they fly around in formation, but in one episode, a little meteor has attached itself to one of the tail-fins of the ship "Orbit Jet", and since the silly thing was molten, it stuck to the tail-fin, so of course Rocky Jones & Co. weren't able to get it off. Finally, Rocky, in a space suit, went out carrying a hose of some sort, and as the meteor was supposed to be hot, he tried to "hose it down". I heard the stuff hiss ing in the vacuum of outer space, so I went to the kitchen, poured another cup of coffee and re-settled myself to watch what other absurdity was in the offing. I didn't have to wait long -- his attempt to hose down the meteor was unsuccessful, with his friends looking on worriedly and talking about how they hoped his space suit would protect him from the extreme heat of the meteor, he took out his heat-ray and cut the meteor into sections, finally cutting it out of the tail-fin, leaving a hole (instead of just melting it down to level with the surface of the tail-fin)! Naturally, the heat-ray went "ZAP" in outer space, too...

In addition to the meteors that "swoosh", are molten in outer space and fly in formation, there are moons called Posito and Negato. This pair of planets or moons, according to the so-called "scientist", have what the characters call an "atmosphere chain" between them, so that thunder and lightning occurred in outer space between Posito and Negato. This "atmosphere chain" supposedly explained how thunder and lightning could pass between the moons of Posito and Negato -- I could hardly call it an electrifying episode -- and also presumably accounted for the inhabitants' ability to commute between Posito and Negato in airplanes! There's SOMETHING wrong with that, but presumably the audience isn't supposed to realize this.

The anachronisms were hilarious. They do have some fascinating "alien" skies and skylines, but the civilians go around in 20th-century clothes, drive 20th-century cars (with inflatable and puncturable tires), and one gentleman, a diplomat or something, was wearing a TOP HAT! Besides this male civilian who wore a top hat (though this show is supposed to be laid in the 21st century at the earliest), the so-called

"scientist", Professor Newton, wears 20th-century garb, with a cravat instead of a necktie. For the most part, the civilian men wore neckties, which seems a trifle archaic, to say the least. What seemed even more absurd was the fact that they all seemed to ride around in 20th-century cars, with puncturable and inflatable tires. They were sports cars, but definitely 20th century. Professor Newton kept exclaiming "Goodness Gracious!" every few minutes. They had another character saying "Goodness Gracious", though the audience didn't hear him say it - as he was a large, burly gentleman with a shaven scalp, the idea of his saying anything so innocuous as that seemed rather funny. Apparently the only expletive any of these people knows is "Goodness Gracious", which sounds rather funny, to say the least, especially when the one saying it is a large, burly gentleman with a shaven scalp! (I've heard a friend of mine say that, though his reason was that he was trying to substitute harmless English words for not-so-harmless Lithuanian words.)

Naturally, the most interesting characters are the ones opposing Rocky Jones and his cohorts - or at least have differences of opinion with him. They have a villainess in it, who, from her garb, would seem to be a sultry, sexy-type queen, Cleolanta by name. Supposedly, a sirenish sort, to my way of thinking she's a sulky spoiled brat who needs a spanking. Her voice is slightly nasal and petulant and she flounces out of the room like a sulky brat about to throw a tantrum, so the effect is more Junior Miss than Junoesque! The way she flounced in and out of a room was hilarious, too. Seems to me that Rocky Jones & Company hob-nob with quite a lot of royalty. I wish they'd get rid of Rocky Jones and get SPACE PATROL back again - at least that didn't have swooshing meteors!

My girl friend, Abby, has a couple of theories about that program; from what I've told her, she says that either the writer(s) is (are) drunk, or the whole thing is made up from bits and pieces cut from other shows.

SCIENCE FICTION THEATER has been going the TV rounds in Philadelphia at 1:00 A.M. on Saturdays - I always seem to miss the good episodes - most of the ones I see are what I call "soap opera with gadgets", which I intensely dislike. I saw the episode you mentioned - "Spider, Inc." - which I didn't enjoy too much anyway (my arachnophobia may sound like a ridiculous one, but every time one of the ordinary garden or house spider bites me, I become afflicted with headache, nausea, chills and fever. Sounds more like malaria, doesn't it? Some form of allergy, I imagine, and I'd better be careful NEVER to get near a black widow spider - I'd probably surl up and die!)

If "Science Fiction Theatre" is "adult science-fiction", I much prefer the juvenile type. It would appear that all anyone needs to put an "adult" program on TV is to mention pregnancy, hint at seduction or rape - at LEAST, and imply that people are driven by motives hidden from even themselves. This sort of tiresome stuff may be true-to-life, but I don't enjoy it. There was one episode on what used to be SPACE PATROL which came quite near to hinting that the villain and his female assistant had a relationship that was possibly going to become far more intimate than either of them had been letting on to anyone - even themselves. That was something I didn't precisely hear - but something the young lady said was slightly suggestive, if you have that kind of mind, which I fear I have. The most interesting thing on S-F Theatre is Truman Bradley who is a great deal more attractive in appearance than any of the "glamor boys" - most of whom I can't endure to look at, because they're all so lifeless - slightly like watching a bunch of animated tailors' dummies. ..I wish that SATELLITE POLICE would go back to being SPACE PATROL - absurd though SPACE PATROL was, at least it didn't have "Swooshing" meteors that were molten in outer space and flew in formation - and SPACE PATROL had one actor who could act well. This Rocky Jones nonsense has no regulars who bother to act. The villains have no more personality than the PeFo & Co.; including that adlepatod Queen Cleolanta who seems to be trying to impress the audience as alluring with all her posing against the wall, and such. On SPACE PATROL, the "villain-in-chief" had a delightful habit of ad-libbing - if he didn't actually change the lines he was speaking, he made the lines sound different from what they had originally been.

Once, he told the hero, "Buzz" Corry, that his men had captured a girl. "I think she's one of yours," says the villain, making it sound as though Corry, an exceedingly stuffy type of hero, were maintaining a baren. No wonder the girl BIT the villain! I'd resent having someone hint that I was loose of morals -- and had such lamentable taste about it! The villain, though not handsome, was much more attractive.

I've seen part of "It Is Written" on TV -- In fact, I believe I saw the one you referred to. Yes, that one photograph of Mars DID make the Polar Cap look a bit like a half-eaten apple core. There was no explanation forthcoming, though I sat and listened for one.

This has been an interminable letter... Sometimes I get distracted, so that my letters get delayed in both being written and sent. Most of my typing is done in the evening, and as I'm not a very fast typist, letters of any length take some time. I've been burbling along at a great rate, and have, temporarily, run out of "steam". After I've mailed this, I'll probably think of more to tell you -- which will have to wait until my next letter to you. That's usually the way. Oh, well -- better to have something left over for the next time, anyway.

Fannishly - and all that,

/s/ JEANIE B. BOGERT

.....
CLAYTON HAMLIN, 28 Earle Ave., Bangor, Me. Nov. 10, 1959

Dear Gem:

Just heard word that the idea I mentioned earlier to you, that we start an argument in Napa and let everyone think we were mad at each other had got out and had been written up in a couple of fanzines. I know who must have been the one to let the information out, but certainly don't hold it against him. Should have put DNQ's on it. You won't mind that I don't mention his name I hope.

(GMC: THERE'S NO NEED TO MENTION ANY OTHER NAME THAN THE ONE SIGNED TO THIS LETTER. THE ONLY WAY IT WOULD "GET OUT" WOULD BE IF YOU OPENED YOUR OWN MOUTH AND BLABBED IT OUT WITHOUT EVEN WAITING TO SEE IF I WOULD GO ALONG WITH IT. WELL, I DIDN'T, AND NOW YOU ARE STUCK WITH THE SILLY RUMOR ALL BY YOUR OWN SELF. I REFUSE TO HAVE ANY PART IN IT.)

Just as soon as I find out where these stories were published I will write them a letter and give them the whole story, including the fact that we both agreed that such a thing wouldn't be right to try in Napa or anywhere else. I am sure the thing can be settled without the slightest difficulty. Perhaps you already have seen these items somewhere. Right now I don't even know who they were but can find out easily enough. It would be best to stop it before the thing is played up too big and people actually begin to believe that something like that is going to happen. We get along much too well to let something like this happen.

It's easy to stop a fight if it is caught early. Oh, sure I love to argue, and can certainly take it, but if we do argue let's at least make it something worth the trouble. I find this kind of amusing though. But I am sorry that the word got out. It is better to start my feuds by choice rather than accident.

(GMC: I AGREE WITH YOU ON BOTH COUNTS -- IT IS EASY TO STOP A FIGHT BEFORE IT HAS A CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HAND, LIKE, FOR INSTANCE, KEEPING YOUR TRAP SHUT BEFORE YOU SPREAD A LOT OF UNVERIFIED RUMOR, AND, SECONDLY, IF YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST "FEUD", DO IT OVER SOMETHING AT LEAST WORTH THE TROUBLE. WHICH, I AM SORRY TO SAY, I DON'T THINK YOUR INEPT IDEA OF "HUMOR" IS...)

Will write at greater length shortly...

/s/ CLAY

(GMC: WELL, I HOPE YOU DO, BECAUSE I HAVE ENJOYED YOUR CORRESPONDENCE. BUT UNTIL THIS ASININE RUMOR HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REFUTED, I'LL NOT SPEAK TO YOU IN N'APA...WHICH, BY THE WAY, IS DEFINITELY NOT "NAPA"...EVEN TO COMMENT.)

SFC Arthur H Rapp RA36886935 EB, 1st Msl Bn, 40th Arty, Fort Bliss, Texas Nov.14 '59

Dear Gem:

Oh let's see now, there are a number of things I want to mention in here, but no doubt I'll forget at least one until after I drop the letter into the mailbox -- that's usually the way such things happen.

Mss.Du. -- I've added three manuscripts of my own to the sheaf you sent, and will mail the batch (together with a letter to Art Hayes) the early part of next week. (Gotta take it in to town to mail, on account of I have no other way of determining how much postage it will require -- is is one of the ghodawful things about being stationed out in the middle of the desert.) I hope he manages to get your essay on Christmas Cards into the hands of some publisher in time to appear during the holiday season.

DREAM STUFF #2: A fine issue -- I wish you were still publishing this sort of thing in SAPS rather than in N'APA, tho. I won't presume to judge the comparative merits of the two apas without having seen a N'APA mailing, but I notice from your mailing comments that (assuming you reviewed the entire mailing) 7 out of the 11 zines were produced by SAPS members, which leads me to conclude that N'APA is as yet mostly mere added activity on the part of already-active apa members (FAPA and/or SAPS) rather than a place for newcomers to develop their talents, as seemed to be the purpose visualized for it in its formative days.

(I'M not condemning or sneering at it for this, merely speculating on what sort of "personality" it is beginning to develop. Which is a bit difficult to do without knowing more about what is going on in N'APA. Howcomes the SAPS members who belong to it haven't said anything much about it in their SAPSzines? Far as I've noticed, no one has even bragged about the size of its mailings, tho from indirect evidence (such as the mc's in the few N'APAZines I've received) I would guess it is growing much faster than either SAPS or FAPA did at a comparable stage...

Incidentally, have you N'APAns been doing any propogandizing among the people on the SAPS and FAPA waiting lists? Even if they are set upon becoming SAPS or FAPs, as the case may be, they ought to leap at the opportunity to become at least temporary N'APaites while they're waiting (of course, once you talk them into THAT, all you have to do is make N'APA interesting enough so that by the time they should be dropping out in order to become SAPS or FAPs, they'll be too loyal to do so.)

Back to DREAM STUFF: I enjoyed your dream-account, it was excellently written indeed, actually making me eager to find out how it all ended. Your mc's on TWONCE made a good point about the advantages of argument -- of course, this is the attitude anyone who indulges in controversy should have, particularly in writing for fanzine publication -- but I wonder how many do? Most people, when you take a swipe at their pet theory, immediately conclude you are taking a swipe at them, personally. #IQ's and learning: you're not exactly correct in your statement here. A person with a low IQ (unless it is so low, of course, that he can't even cope with the ordinary problems of day-to-day life) can still absorb almost any amount of education -- the trouble is, it takes him much longer to do so than his higher-IQ competitors. But since employers are concerned with results, they are not going to take a month to teach the low-IQ man a job that his fellow-employee can learn in two days -- not unless they have some motive other than sound business management provides. #On the membership-limitation question, I might suggest something which, as a newly formed organization, N'APA might be more willing to try than the tradition-bound FAPA or SAPS: Instead of requiring only three or four more copies than are necessary to prepare the members' bundles, why doesn't N'APA require 20 or 25 extra, so that bundles are available for sale to non-members? I notice in the last treasury report in SAPS, that we sold \$12 worth of surplus in the past 3 months -- with a little huckstering, N'APA might be able to make enuf profit off surplus bundles to eliminate the need of having its members pay dues at all! (Of course, they'd still be taxed in the form of paying for the excess copies they had to produce, but as the U.S. Government has amply illustrated, indirect taxation gets far

fewer grumbles!) #FANAC comments: Have you noticed your unspoken assumption in this, that there will always be members trying to sneak by on the very minimum of activity permitted by the apa's regulations? This is, of course, usually the case....

Lettercolumn: I hope I'm proved wrong, but I suspect that Hamlin is going to feel awfully let-down when he gets that "Terran Daily Gazette" published. After all the buildup it's gotten, it would have to be a combination of NEKROMANTIKON and FAN-CYCLOPEDIA not to be anticlimactic.

Hey, speaking of fansines, and since this letter is mostly about an N3F activity anyway, do you happen to know the financial setup of POSTWARF and MEMORITOR? My interest in PW is because, looking over my file of the issues I published in 49-50, I noticed that my first issue (500 copies) was subsidized by N3F, and sent free to the membership. From then on it was strictly subscription (except I think the N3F paid for one copy to be sent to each new member joining N3F), and I reported in the sixth issue that not only was it making expenses, but that about \$6.00 of the original \$20 deficit had been liquidated. Somewhere or other I got the impression that PW nowadays is routinely financed by the N3F, with no particular hope of ever paying its own way. This coggles me, since the issues I've seen are far more lively and interesting than those I published, and the only reason I can think of that it might not be paying for itself is that it doesn't come out on a frequent, regular schedule. (Because there were a couple other lettersines being published back in '50, I handicapped PW by restricting its sale to N3F members -- nowadays, with NO competition, a lettersine peddling subscriptions to fandom at large should be a cinch to pay for itself.

MEMORITOR: As a replacement for TNEF this is wonderful, the sort of thing TNEF might be if it could shake off its bureaucratic solemnity. But if this is being paid for by the N3F rather'n by the people who publish it, I'm about to get up on my complaining-member facet and demand that the funds be used to provide a better TNEF rather than an unofficial competitor.

N3F irritates me these days: it's just on the verge of becoming the sort of useful, active organization that Sneary, Cox and I were trying to turn it into ten years ago. The talent is there, now, except that the usual N3F quota of redtape-loving bureaucrats is also there, and the fans with the potential ability to reform N3F (like Art Hayes and Al Lewis) are not yet experienced enuf to feel like pulling the rug out from under the nit-pickers. If I had the time to spare for it, I'd gather up a few of these bright young members like Hayes and Lewis, and launch a reform movement like the Activity Requirement Party that we used to shake N3F up in '48. In spite of all the griping against it by non-members, in my opinion N3F is in a much better position to become a respectable fangroup today than it was then. These days, there is no active competing group, and there is a feeling among most fans that something is needed to unify the various drifting segments of fandom -- a task made to order for N3F, if only someone like Sneary would jump in and grab the steering wheel, and start talking in such an authoritative tone that no one would question his right to be steering the group. (In the ARP days, Rick came up with most of the ideas, while Edco and I, tho we might argue with him in private, enthusiastically seconded everything he said in public. The three of us made so much noise we almost got the N3F to vote in a rule that would have booted the deadwood out of the club!)

But heck, it's now ten years after 1948, and Rick and Edco and I are no longer eager young neofen, we're cynical and pessimistic oldfen. Somewhere in the ranks of the N3F, tho, ought to be someone who could become this fangeneration's torchbearer. He is probably even a member of N'APA, Gen. Why don't you try to find him, and give him a stimulating kick in the appropriate portion of his anatomy to get started on his career?

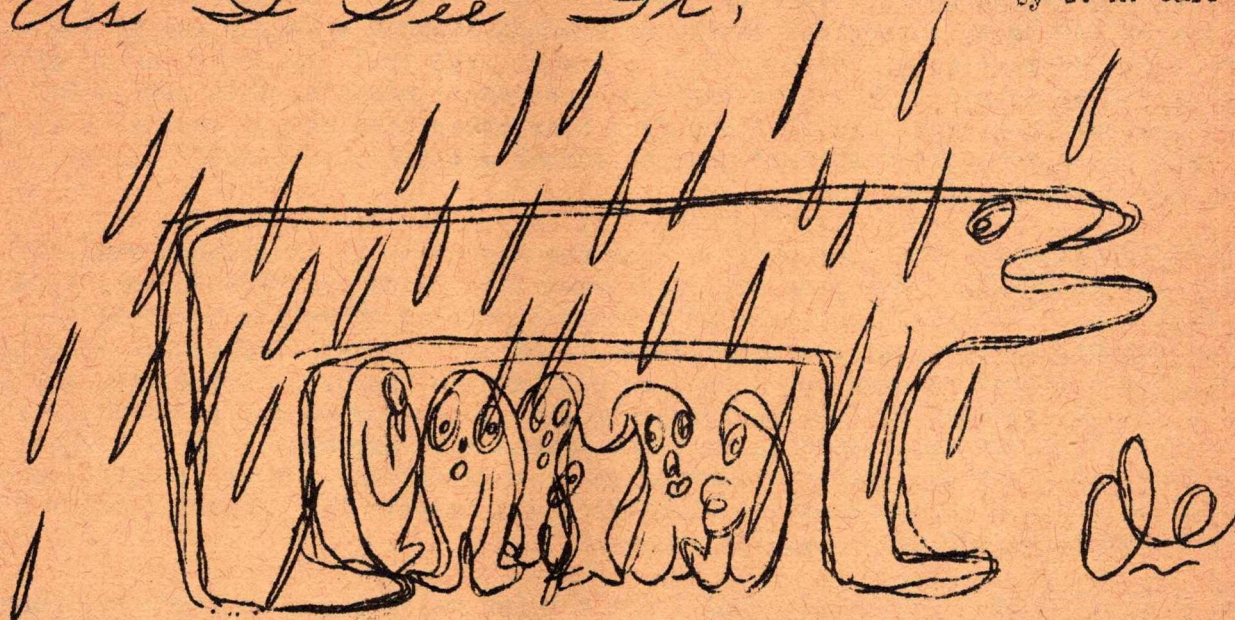
Best and all,

/s/ Art

(GMC: GROAN. OH GOD, NO!, NOT AGAIN... WE'VE JUST
BEEN THROD YEARS OF ONE REFORM PARTY AFTER ANOTHER
TEARING N3F TO BITS. NOW WE'VE FINALLY GOT A FIRM
HAND AT THE STEERING WHEEL AND WE DON'T NEED ANY
WILD-EYED YOUNG NEOFEN TEARING IT ALL TO BITS AGAIN!)

As I See It,

Mailing Comments
by G. M. Carr



"I know from experience," says I, plaintively, "that every time I open my big mouth about somebody else's spelling, my own mag turns out to be as full of typos as toys in a Christmas stocking!" But, nevertheless, I'm going to stick my neck out again. This current slaughter of words is getting me to the point of losing my own ability to recognize an incorrectly spelled word. The grammar-school conditioning which once enabled me to spot a typo in time to correct it, is being broken down by the incessant onslaught of mangled and misshapen words in other fanzines, so that I cannot even proofread my own mag with any degree of accuracy. If our casual acceptance of sloppy spelling and garbled grammar can have that effect on me -- who at least learned how to spell correctly to begin with -- what effect do you suppose it has on kids who never DID know what a word should look like?

Furthermore, it seems to me that just about every new name I run across lately turns out to belong to some upperclass student in his twenties, usually described as six feet tall, weight about 170 pounds, and busy working toward either a highschool Diploma or a College Degree. But whether this student is blond or brunet, handsome or ugly, highschool or university, it seems that invariably he has the spelling ability of a backward sixth-grader!

Now, I grant that we all make typing errors and that we are not always able to catch them. But it is possible to recognize a word that is misspelled because of hitting the wrong key on the typer from one that is misspelled because the writer did not know any better! For instance, when I find a phrase like, "bith front and rear" it is obvious that the misspelling was due to a typographical error -- it should be "both" but the writer hit the key next to the one he intended. However, when this same writer, on the same page, wrote: "magizine" "rediculous" "perfeessional" (twice) and "reasionable", I seriously question the quality of his spelling! The typos I am willing to overlook (although in the absence of corflu, even a strikeover would help)

but I cannot avoid the feeling that this type of illiteracy is inexcusable. Especially in an advanced student! If it were just ONE mag that contained such fractured wordage, I could perhaps write privately to the unfortunate individual and offer constructive criticism... but it wasn't just one offender! In one case, I opened a fanzine to discover three misspelled words in the first three lines! I pick up a handful of fmz and what do I find? 'Origon' for origin; 'emperical' for empirical; 'scarse' for scarce; 'indicititave' for indicative; 'hobies' for hobbies; 'tendacies' for tendencies ... to take just one example from each! One of these offenders is working for his Masters Degree, without ever having mastered the very rudimentary requirement of learning how to spell correctly! Sure. I admit I am a narrow-minded old stick-in-the-mud to be so inflexible that I am shocked at such slovenly use of our language. But, look, kids -- do old Grandma Carr a favor, will you? Have pity on an old, tired faaaan who is so set in her ways that she just can't adapt to this newfangled disregard for spelling, and take time out from your other more highly technical studies to bone up on some old-fashioned grammar school spelling... please! Thanks....

And now to the Mailing:

CONJURE:Deckinger. The most obvious name for a fanzine to complement your HOCUS would naturally be POCUS.. How come you overlooked it? Or do you already have a fanzine by that name? (Movies) Your idea of a world of aliens wherein a human is the Monster is excellent, except that I suspect there would be a certain difficulty in conveying the alien's terror, dismay, etc. etc. on beholding a human... After all, the audience could not be expected to feel terror at beholding another human, so they might have some difficulty in comprehending what the aliens were experiencing. I suspect it would be difficult to portray a convincing alien reaction so that it could be comprehended in terms of human emotion. (Little Known Facts) The kindest comment I can make about this fanfiction is, "No comment".

THE SAVOYARD:Peiz. (Chisai Zamoku) I don't think we really need worry too much about OMPA's mailing dates when planning our own.. after all, OMPA -- as I understand it -- is primarily an overseas apa, intended mostly for overseas members with only a nominal US membership as a reciprocal gesture to the few overseas members who belong to US apas. I doubt very much there will be very many of our members who belong to every US apa and to OMPA as well, and these few would undoubtedly be such indefatigable an-pubbers that duplicate mailing dates would mean nothing to their publishing schedules. Besides, how can we be sure that there will not be future overseas apas whose mailing dates could conflict with whatever date we choose? No, I think if we in the US make a balanced mailing schedule in conformity with SAPS & FAPA, those few members who are also in OMPA will have little trouble in adjusting to it. (June-July TNFF) I DO wish someone would speak up and say what this Hank Snow business is all about! This seems to be another case of a lot of whispering but no facts.. if anyone has SEEN these alleged racial insults, I wish they would speak up and say what they were and who did them! Otherwise, I think the subject should be dropped. These hints and whispers do far more harm than good, and whatever the original incidents may have been, they probably were less offensive than the current hints and innuencos are. I, like you, did not know Hank Snow when he was a member and know nothing about the circumstances, but if this is going to become a skeleton in the NSF closet, I'd at least like to be permitted to examine the bones! (Gilbert and Sullivan) I think you win that argument hands down, Bruce. Mike just hasn't been around enough to know what he is talking about in this instance.

GUANO #3:Hayes. (Pearls Before Swine) Put it this way, Art -- if a doctor spends a lifetime perfecting his technique for intricate heart surgery, would you see any point in demanding that he be an expert at yanking tonsils, tee? Would you accuse him of snobbery because he specializes on heart surgery, and suspect him of regarding people as "clods" when they only need a tonsillectomy? Seth is 100% correct in his remarks about an instrumentalist's technical ability: a musician who has learned to operate a violin on the technical level of a Jascha Heifitz or an Efrem Zimbalist would be wasted on the average music-listener, because the average listener does not have the

musical education which will enable him to understand what he is listening to. This does not make them "clods" for not understanding Heifitz' technique, any more than it would make them "clods" for not understanding the nuances of 'cool jazz'... It merely recognizes that music appreciation is a specialization in itself. (Savoyard) I hope this business about the Mss. Bu. being "renowned throughout Fandom, not only in N3F" gets settled once and for all! I realize that it is to be expected in a ¹⁰³ ~~102~~ gooder organization like N3F that generous-minded members will try to give away for free everything we have.. This is one of the chronic reasons which has made N3F a laughingstock in fandom, the fact that we haven't got sense enough to keep our N3F Services to ourselves, but are suckers enough to hand them out to anybody that will show an interest in us! It is difficult enough to persuade members to pay their dues and renew regularly even when N3F has services and benefits to give them, but if we insist on giving away for free everything we have, how can we expect ANYBODY to pay dues? For that matter, if a fan doesn't care enough for the Mss. Bu. to pay \$1.60 a year for the privilege of using it, why should he be allowed to participate in it? Just as some fans are already muttering at the stipulation that N'APA is limited only to current N3F members, and seem to think shocking that N3F takes a tough policy in this regard, some fans seem to think we ought to work our heads off in these Bureaus just so they will have something else to sneer at us about, and say "what's the use of joining the club when you can get everything they've got for nothing.." (Special Funds) I agree with you on this, Art. These special funds springing up hither-and-yon may well turn out to do more harm to TAFF than any amount of internal bickering! What's more, it is my personal opinion that the real reason for these "special funds" is not the altruistic desire to bring Fan Celebrity So-and-So overseas, but is nothing else than a selfish desire for egoboo on the part of the originators! If it were an unselfish desire to bring a fan overseas, these would-be 'organizers' would pitch in and help the TAFF campaign gain strength and thus utilize all of fandom's cooperation to bring over the candidate they want to see. But the very fact that they will cut in on an established campaign, seems to me to indicate they are more interested in making a "Big Name" for themselves than they are in the ostensible object of their efforts. QUADZINE noted but no room to comment....

POLHODE:Meskya. Don't misunderstand me, please. I'm not trying to offend you, but genuinely curious to know why you would send a zine like this to a pro? I mean, what makes you think a pro would be interested? Which 10 pros did you send it to, and what was their reaction -- if any? To my mind, the best item in it was the report on the Fanarcon -- but with conreps a dime a dozen in fanzines, there really was not much except the egoboo in it for a professional writer/editor/publisher. By the way, now that you have had a taste of what it means to publish 40 copies of a fanzine, are you still in favor of a gradually increasing membership?

TIAMAT:Alphonseca/Blackburn. It is a great help to the reader if you put the name of your publication on the front cover in such a way that it can be readily identified without checking off the list of contents in the OO. But then I suppose as you become more accustomed to publishing a fanzine, you will catch on to little things like that... By the way, do you have an extra copy of that Sax Rohmer Checklist? My sister is a Sax Rohmer fan (I can't stand him, myself) and she would probably be very pleased to see a compilation of all his works. I'd send her my copy, but I hate to break up the mailing... Her address is Christine Plant, Box 177 Manette Station, Bremerton, Wash.

GROUND ZERO, aNIMuS curiae:Nims. OMPazines -- Noted. Sorry, George, I'll wait with my comments until you find time to give us a mag intended solely for N'APA. I really don't care for second-best... I don't mind a mag that is used for exchanges in general fandom AFTER it has been distributed in the apa for which it was intended, but I tend to lose interest in a mag that is merely left over from some other apa, no matter how good it may be intrinsically.

WYOMA:FIRESTONE. Sorry, Eva, there was no copy of your mag in my bundle. As soon as I realized it was missing, I sent a care to Guy but evidently he did not get the card or was not able to get an extra copy in the mail in time for it to reach me.

PEALS:Belle. I can't begin to express how much I enjoyed your comments, Belle. The incident about the hole-with-footprints was hilarious - I wish you would give us more such impressions of Old World Culture... Your comments about the new type of toys nowadays, reminded me of that story several years back about the box of toys that fell through a rift in time, "All Minsy Were The Borogroves.." (in UNKNOWN, I think -- was it Sturgeon?), especially about the skeleton with 'innards'. Gad, what a way to teach anatomy! I hope they were accurately done. By the way, have you noticed the Bubble Gum "Space Money"? Enclosed is a sample (I hope!) A thoroughly enjoyable mag, Belle, and probably the best in the Mailing.



APA-tite/tight:Coslet. Knowing "a full quarter ahead" is not enough, Walt, when it comes to planning how much paper you'll probably need during the year; nor is it any help at all in the matter of using up material which was planned for one mailing and partly mimeographed. Neither is it any help when it comes to the amount of time available for running off your copies. If you know from mailing to mailing how many copies you are going to need, you can plan with confidence not only how much paper you will need; and how much time it will require to run so many pages, but you can also make use of material in a later mailing if you find it is not available (or needed) in this one... But with the kind of flexible membership you propose, there is no way of budgeting your supplies except by cutting down the number of pages -- and that is a highly unsatisfactory method. Furthermore, it may be all right for you to run a couple of hundred copies of each master, but I find such a chore both time-consuming and tiresome. A moderate-sized apa like this one presently is, is no trouble at all. But if it were to run into 100 or 150 members as you propose, it would be such a nuisance that it would be out of question! Besides which, attempting to comment adequately on that many fanzines would run the size of your mailing comments to an absurd size -- a topheavy situation all the way around, and one that I do not believe could be made interesting to anyone except a completist who was not interested in any aspect of the mailing except the number of titles!

BRUNO'S GEMPLUM:Tolliver. There are several kinds of 'honest' strikeovers, Steve, so that it is not necessary to use the (as you call it) ~~tricky~~ "phoney" strikeover, in which the original words are still legible. The most ordinary kind utilizes the letter 'x', ~~strikerover~~. Or, if you wish to make sure that the original word is not decipherable, the larger consonants such as fghkjbd: ~~dfghkjbdsgk~~. I guarantee that nobody - but NOBODY - is going to decipher a typed word that has two or more letters as random strikeovers! The best method, of course, is to apply correction fluid and start from scratch!

INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION SOCIETY:Hill. I'm somewhat of a one-woman-war on these singlesheet contributions in apa mailings, Alma. Probably I'm the only one (aside from the long-suffering OEs) who objects to them, but to me they seem to be hardly worth the bother. However, I'm so glad to make your acquaintance in the mailing that I'm almost inclined not to mention it. I've enjoyed your column in TNFF -- look for it, in fact -- and hope in the future to see more of your writing.

TAFF BALLOT:I forgot who put it in. Maybe it's lese majeste, or something, to say so but I'm getting awfully sick of having these TAFF ballots falling like autumn leaves around my desk every time I open a batch of fanzines! Any fan that hasn't voted by this time isn't likely to do so merely because a blizzard of ballots slithers all over the floor when he opens his mail! I think these ballots are being wasted when they are mailed out indiscriminately this way, and, what is more, I think this foolish flood of wasted paper tends to disgust the recipient with TAFF rather than induce him to vote. At least, that is the effect it has on me.

HALF LIFE:Woolston. Isn't it rather confusing, Stan, to find still another editor of "MOONSHINE"? You and Sneary in FAPA, Moffatt in general fandom, and now Guy Terwilleger in N'APA! Stan, what in the world was the matter with the Directorate of NSF to make them so dreadfully conservative in the title of this group? Why did we have to be an "apa" at all? -- and especially such an old, tired title as this already over-worked N-A-P-A idea? Why couldn't we have been something like NFFA (Neffa) or just N3FP? Or even, if we HAD to use a punctuation mark, the NFF/F? Neeeeeyappa! Tcha!

MOONSHINE:Terwilleger. Your mention of the lady buying pop-corn and your double-entendre anent "getting your hands on a bag" remind me of an equally horrible 'gaffe' I once pulled in all innocence... It was during WWII when soda fountains were having a difficult time to get supplies, and it was almost impossible to get ground walnuts for a "Nut Sundae". Time after time I'd go in for a nut sundae, only to find (too late to change my order) they were out of nuts. Finally it got so that I automatically inquired before I placed my order, just to make sure I wouldn't be disappointed with those disgusting cake crumbs they sometimes substituted. Which was all right, most of the time... But one evening my husband and I dropped in at a soda-fountain where the attendant was a big, burly, middle-aged man -- probably the owner of the store. When he came for our order I asked, as usual,

"Have you got any nuts?"

He stood there and glared at me with such a peculiar expression that I looked up in surprise. At last he growled,

"Yes"

"Good," says I, "Give me a Chocolate Fudge with Peppermint Icecream Nut Sundae"... and it was not until after we got outside and I commented on his peculiar behavior that my husband enlightened me as to the probable reason for it! I still get faintly pink around the gills every time I think of it, and I sometimes wonder what he would have replied had my husband not been with me....

WHIZZ:Weber. Once again I'll postpone my usual grumble at a singlesheet contribution and, in view of the quality and interesting content of this one, merely mutter a mumbling word or two like, "Gee, Whizz, WHIZZ is sure stingy with all that good stuff! Only 2 pages for a 2000 mile trip! With BERRY, yet! What's the matter -- aren't we good enough for you? Everybody else rates a full-sized report, but all we get is 2 pp!

YAP:OE. I do not object to the name of the OO; I don't even object if you wish to call yourself Mailer -- or whatever. In fact, I agree most heartily with practically all of your YAPPING, except the comment about liking to see mags in the mailing that are not N'APazines. I don't mind seeing them there IN ADDITION TO the member's regular N'APazine. Fine. But to submit them INSTEAD of a N'APazine -- Uh, uh! That I do not like. I note there seems to be confusion to this "your own work" idea.. Perhaps we should have some clarification as to meaning? If a member re-types and re-runs an interesting reprint of someone else's material, would that not count as "his own work" inasmuch as he did the actual publishing? Or suppose a member scribbled 5 pages of crud for someone else to run off for him -- would that be "his own work"? Naturally, I would prefer to see original material written and published by the member, but a carefully edited collection of well-chosen reprinted material is sometimes ever so much nicer to read than hastily thrown-together fancrud!

FAN DEN:Higgs. I like that light blue paper you use. Wish I could get some like it here in Seattle. (Strike) How come you had to live on "green beans and peanut butter"? Peanut butter is expensive out here... Racy, I hope you have sent details of the violence to the Investigating Committee. There's no use telling us about it -- although we are naturally interested in hearing what happened -- because we can't do anything. But reporting it to the Senate Committee who are investigating hooliganism in Unions, MIGHT do some good! Send 'em a copy of your fanzines, if nothing else... I'm glad you mentioned that business of Alan Lewis sending out copies of POSTWARP outside of N3F and asking non-neffers to tell us "What's Wrong With N3F"! Personally, I think it was one of the damn stupidest things N3F has done for many a day -- and what I mean, N3 F has done some Damn Stupid Things! In the first place, it is none of non-neffers business what is "wrong" with N3F, and in the second place, I consider it the most egregious arrogance on the part of those non-neffers who had the consummate GALL to take him up on it! It was bad enough that ex-neffers who hadn't been in the club for years should try to discuss the present-day situation in terms of what it was when they belonged -- but when individuals who are not now and never have been members, have the outrageous impudence to attempt to dissect N3F I think it is the absolute LIMIT! I thought this whole episode was a shocking display of tactlessness and certainly did not reflect any credit either on the non-neffers who misguidedly replied to the improper solicitation, or to the well-meaning but obviously lack-brained member who did it! (Sorry, Allen, much as I like you and the way you edit POSTWARP, that's the way I feel!)

MR. FANTHONY - FAN COUNSELLOR.

Dear Mr. Fanthony,

There is a rumor going around fandom that fem-fans enter fandom because they are sex-starved. Do you think this is true?

WELL-FED FANNE



DEAR WELL-FED FANNE,

I DON'T KNOW A GREAT MANY FEMALE FANS, AND SO CAN'T POSE AS AN AUTHORITY ON THEM. HOWEVER, I DO KNOW WOMEN! AND I CAN POINT OUT A FEW ABSURDITIES IN THIS NOTION AS TO SEX-STARVATION. FORGIVE ME, BUT I JUST CAN'T RESIST - ONLY SEX-STARVED MEN BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF SEX-STARVED WOMEN. UNQUOTE.

LET'S PLAY AROUND WITH THIS A BIT. ABOUT HALF OF THE WOMEN IN FANDOM ARE MARRIED, AND USUALLY TO FANS. SEX-STARVED? - ARE WE THEN TO POSTULATE THE EXISTENCE OF SOME SORT OF VIRUS THAT RENDERS MALE FANS IMPOTENT? - OR STRETCH THE POSTULATE TO INCLUDE A RATHER REMARKABLE SPECIFICITY OF SAID VIRUS? - NOT MUCH POINT IN SEX-STARVED WOMEN INFESTING FANDOM IF ALL THE MEN ARE IMPOTENT, SO WE ARE TO ASSUME THAT THIS VIRUS ATTACKS ONLY MARRIED FANS? - MALE-TYPE?

ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST OF THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE FEMME-FANS ARE REASONABLY YOUNG, REASONABLY ATTRACTIVE. SO WE ARE NOW TO ASSUME SOMETHING EVEN MORE FANTASTIC THAN THE HYPOTHETICAL VIRUS - THIS BEING THAT DOZENS OF SEX-STARVED WOMEN ARE FORCED TO TURN TO FANDOM BECAUSE THEIR VILE ADVANCES ARE INVARIABLY REDUFFED BY 100% OF THE VIRTUOUS MALES OF OTHER PERSUASIONS -- OBOYBOYOBOYOBOY.

I'D SAY, FROM THE FEW FEMALE FANS AND FAN TYPES WHO HAVE CONFIDED IN ME, THAT THEIR INTEREST IN FANDOM IS TYPICAL OF FANS OF EITHER SEX. MANY HAVE SOME TALENT FOR WHICH THEY CAN FIND NO OTHER OUTLET; THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE ESPECIALLY TRUE OF OUR FINE FEMME ARTISTS, BUT IS NOT CONFINED TO THIS PARTICULAR AREA OF CREATIVENESS. I NEED NOT CITE EXAMPLES, AS THEY ARE QUITE WELL-KNOWN.

THEN, OF COURSE, THERE IS SPEER'S HANDICAP THEORY, WHICH WOULD APPLY TO WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN. ANOTHER REASON, ONLY PERIPHERALLY RELATED TO THE "SEX-STARVATION" ROUTINE, IS THE PROBLEM OF THE COMPANY OF ONE'S PEERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, A WOMAN OF ANY PRETENSE TO INTELLIGENCE, WIT, OR CREATIVENESS IS APT TO FEEL THAT HER WORK-A-DAY COMPANIONS ARE CLOUDS, AND MAY FEEL THAT IN FANDOM SHE CAN FIND MEN WITH BETTER METHODS TO ENTERTAIN THAN A WELL-WORN IMITATION OF AN OCTOPUS.

MR. FANTHONY

A Dozen Lines For Jesus On The Anniversary Of His Birth:

CHRISTMAS POEM - 1959

In Bethlehem tonight, no doubt
The stars are just as bright
As once they were, upon a night
When angels stood about...

The night is just as cold, I guess,
The pungent smell of spice
is just as nice;
and stables just as much a mess.

Does anyone bring gifts this year,
Or search for Manger filled with straw
To gaze on it with mingled awe
and fear, remembering Who once slept here?