

Hello, there! This is

fap #3

and it's published by

Les Gerber, 201 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn 26, New York, for the sixth mailing of the Shadow FAPA (which is going to be late again, but only by a week this time.) As usual, fap has no cover. I don't believe in them, at least not for cruddy informal written-on-stencil Shadow FAPAZines. (Lest you get the wrong idea, I don't believe in cruddy informal written-on-stencil Shadow FAPAZines either, but what are you going to do?) We announce with pride that we have real fresh corflu this time around, anyway.

Probably most people who are reading fap this time around are wondering what I'm going to do with the next mailing, so I'll tell you right now and let you all go back to reading the FA and filling out the Egoboo Poll. (I hope the fact that many of us are merely on the waiting list does not keep us from filling out our Egoboo Polls. I fill mine out religiously, burning incense all the while. Last year, I even sent it in. But I digress.) I have decided that it's not really fair to require contributors to the mailing to send enough copies to cover the entire waiting list—which could set a dangerous precedent—and therefore, the number of required copies remains at 105. If you care not a fig for waiting lister #36, send only 105 copies. At the same time, it is equally unfair to deny those generous souls who would distribute their zines to the entire waiting list the right to do so, especially since I am one of them; and therefore, those wishing to send copies to the entire waiting list should check in the FA and total the membership plus the waiting list, add three to five copies for safety, and send me the whole mess. The split-level mailing will make bookkeeping a bit difficult, and I'll be quite happy if everyone decides to be generous; but I will do my best to be fair about the whole thing and charge only for the number of copies distributed.

For those who have never contributed to the Shadow FAPA (there are droves of you out there!) and would like to, I should mention here that the charge for including zines in the mailing is being made on a per page basis, not to discourage large contributions but to avoid penalizing those who send smaller ones. It seems the only fair system to me, and I follow it. SAPS, which allows waiting-listers to circulate their zines as part of the official mailing, charges on the same basis. Pelz gets 25¢ a sheet, for a total circulation of 42. Last mailing we circulated 100 copies for 30¢ a sheet, which just goes to show something. The price is subject to variations, which is why contributors are billed after the mailings are sent out, but even with the addition of envelopes I'll be surprised if the price fluctuates more than a nickel per sheet either way. So get off your duffs, like; there are a number of generous FAPA members who send their zines to Shadow FAPA contributors (bless you all!), and there are other intangible advantages to contributing which we shall doubtless all discover when we reach that great apa in the sky.

For the benefit of those of you who are wondering, "Whatever happened to _____ or _____ or all those other characters who are always in the shadow mailings?" I should mention that so am I.

This is no place to start anything, so I'll use the space to explain that, even though there is some material above which might be construed as semi-official business, fap is in no sense an official organ of the Shadow FAPA, which has no official organ, and no official anything, really. Anything found anywhere in this fanzine is strictly the product of my own personal mentality, such as it is, and should not be taken to imply anything else whatsoever. With that held firmly in mind, the entire staff of fap wishes to offer our heartiest congratulations to Ron Ellik for his TAFF victory. To Dick Eney, better luck next time—next time you write a conreport, that is. We wish we could urge you once again to support the Willis Fund, but...well, did you ever! Wow!

You have just read page one. Page two is on the other side, if you care.

This is where we comment on the last mailing, a column known only as: page two because we don't really believe in column titles either. (If we sound a bit like Calvin W. "Biff" Demmon, we don't really know what's gotten into us. Hi, Biff!)

PANTOPON (Ruth Berman)

The summer I went to Camp Rising Sun (which was distinguished by having 15 kids from other countries, including one from Japan, but was not otherwise Japanese) we were constantly trying to find out what the words to "Miya Sama" meant, especially since we did "The Mikado" as our big production of the summer. He finally gave in and started to tell us. He got as far as something about there being a horse in front of a temple, and then burst into uncontrollable fits of laughter. He couldn't stop for almost ten minutes, and then when he tried to continue he just broke down again. We never did get past the horse in front of the temple, except in our imaginations. #The piano tuner shakes his what sadly? #If you really dig Houseman parodies, there are a batch of them in Samuel Hoffenstein's "Poems in Praise of Practically Nothing," most of them beauties. The book is a joy, anyway. #If I listed all the books I've gotten since the last mailing, I would take up entirely too much space. I'd rather list the records, anyway; and I can't remember exactly when I got which ones. Besides, at least half of FAPA wouldn't be interested, and the other half would suffer greatly when I told about all the stuff I've picked up for \$1 per LP or so. If I listed the books I've read since the last mailing...well, there are about 40 of them, and as I type I'm in the middle of three more.

W'BASKET (Calvin W. "Biff" Demmon)

Logically, it would seem that Russ was right about G. M. Carr. But that's only in the abstract; when you find out some of the specifics of the case, I think you'll decide that Voltaire wouldn't even have defended to the death her right to say it. #I didn't think it necessary to tell everybody about my life either; I figured they'd sort of know, understand? But I may tell all anyway, if I decide I'm that desperately in need of something to fill up space. #Kind of short, W'BASKET, zine and title. I guess that figures.

THE LURKING SHADOW (Chuck Hansen)

The material on yourself was most interesting, largely because you are such a mysterious unknown type character. I suspect, though, that you didn't mean the sentence at the bottom of page 6 ("I get on famously with the girls when they are very young...") the way some Nabokovians will take it...well, not really... #So you know Albuquerque! I've always thought of that city as being far more exotic than, say, Hong Kong; it's more in a class with Bangkok or Teheran. When I've been to Albuquerque, I'll feel justified in saying I've seen the world, even though I probably won't like it. #There are some things in cans or frozen packages which taste good enough to be worth eating, but not too many. Campbell's soups are among my favorites; and although they don't advertise the fact, if you pull off the label you'll find plans for building a Dean Drive on the inside.

IDLE HANDS (Norm Metcalf)

I'm afraid it's impractical to weight the different type sizes in counting pages towards fulfilling the requirements. And as far as spacing goes, you space as much as anyone. I would say, though, that anyone who tries to fulfill his page requirements with double-spacing should be shown the gate immediately. I believe it was Brian Burgess who just got away with that recently in OMPA. #I talked to H. L. Gold some time before GALAXY increased size and went bi-monthly, and he said the main reason for the change as far as he was concerned was that he couldn't get enough "GALAXY-quality" material to fill the monthly magazine. The bi-monthly magazine, although larger, would require less material. The lesser

quality but nevertheless publishable material would go into IF. After all, even if GAIAXY itself isn't monthly, the Galaxy Publishing Corporation still puts out a science-fiction magazine every month. #Actually, among really good composers, Sibelius's percentage of first class compositions is rather notoriously low. There are composers with lower averages--such as Lalo, who almost by accident managed to compose one work, the Symphonie Espagnol, which is worth listening to --but I would say most composers have much better overall success than Sibelius. I suppose everyone knows Beethoven turned out some hackwork in his day--Wellington's Victory, the Fantasy for Piano, Chorus, and Orchestra, and a few others--but in comparison with the number of great works he wrote, they are truly negligible. Even among composers of this century, I can think of few major figures who have so large a proportion of totally unknown compositions. And this is even stranger since Sibelius is such a popular composer. As far as I'm concerned, I would rather have the Ravel Concerto for the Left Hand or the Bartok Violin Concerto (the comparatively well-known one, not the recently-discovered and recorded work which I haven't even heard yet) than all of Sibelius's output, even though I would never say I dislike Sibelius. #If any Christian Science reading rooms would be open around the clock, I would imagine they would be the ones in New York, which probably has more 24hour places than even Los Angeles. But they all close promptly at 5. #You left out in your list of fine Western writers the best Western novelist I've ever read, Frederick Manfred. Of course, he isn't exclusively a Western writer, but that's still no excuse for not reading his fine novel Conquering Horse, which is in paperback. #Well, 20 \$2 speakers might give you a big sound. But high fidelity? There are frequencies which just can't be reproduced by a \$2 speaker, and you would hear their absence. I'm sure there are \$40 speakers which would sound better. #I was in Berlin, New Hampshire this summer. I spent a few weeks in Jackson, New Hampshire, and we took a trip up to Berlin to see the paper mills (and to pick up some beautiful polo shirts at fantastically cheap prices from a local mill.) It's quite an interesting city. I've never been in San Francisco, but I've seen it in plenty of photos and movies, and I don't think its hills are any steeper than some of the ones in Berlin. It's by far the ugliest city I've ever seen--infinitely uglier than Baltimore, which I've been told is an outstandingly ugly city. And appropriately enough, it has an overpowering cabbage-like stench which hits you almost five miles outside the city. The smell comes, of course, from the paper mills, which are the only place in the city where it doesn't bother you. It's a nice place to visit--for a few hours--but anyone who lives there must be crazy. If anyone ever visits the place, they should be careful to pronounce the name of the city Ber' lin. Most of the population is French-Canadian, and I wouldn't be surprised if they lynched people who pronounce the city's name as if it were in Germany. (Incidentally, I was also in Center Sandwich, New Hampshire, but they didn't have any postcards for me to send to Redd Boggs.)

PIPSISSEWA (Page & Wells)

Your title and subtitle are absolutely inspired! #Charles, your idea for a point basis admission to FAPA is interesting, but would you want to keep the records? The present system isn't so bad that anyone has to go to that kind of trouble to replace it. #I mean, what do you say about the fable? All right, then, what do I say? At least it was non-partisan, if you know what I mean. And funny! Yeah, funny as all hell! Why haven't you done anything like it before?

fap (me)

Actually, if you want to know the truth, the reason you see the entry for fap is that I couldn't think of anything else to end off this page with as appropriately. About all I have to say about my own fanzine is that I agree with everything in it, which isn't much anyway.

It is now about time to comment on the real FAPAazines. However, we didn't get very many of them, this time around—four, in fact, counting the FA and the various stuff that came with it as one zine. I am quite easily able to believe that I might have misplaced a zine or two by accident, but I did have a place I meant to put them in, and these four were there. Not even Phyllis Economou came through, which may have something to do with the fact that she didn't have a zine in the mailing—or maybe it was the other way around. Be that as it may, I do wish more people would send me FAPAazines, so I would be able to write more mailing comments instead of being forced to use my imagination to fill up pages—or leaving them out altogether.

THE FANTASY AMATEUR (Bradley)

I should think Sam and Chris would be Moskowitzes. Or don't normal rules of English apply for Sam Moskowitz? #Depressingly few people are dropping out, but at least I didn't go down. There oughta be a law against that. #The ruling by precedent on AILLEURS, while I wouldn't protest even if I could, may make it very easy some day for a lazy member to get around the originality requirement.

A FANZINE FOR NOW! (Al Lewis the FAPA member)

This is really just an acknowledgement, since I see the issue I have is from the 95th mailing. One of these days I'm going to get things straightened out.

CELEPHAIS (Bill Evans)

It looks as though someone took a bite out of the lower left hand corner of my copy. #Do you like to eat the same thing in sandwiches for a week? I go batty when I get something three days in succession, even something I like. #As far as I'm concerned, the major disadvantage of 78's is changing them every four minutes, especially since I'm afraid of automatic changers. But I still listen to plenty of 78's, especially on LP reissues, and I am about to embark on an extensive taping project to copy not only my family's entire collection but as many fine 78's as I can get access to. My family has just purchased a fine stereo system, which is not yet put together; and from experiments with other fine equipment I've found that in some ways a 1930 recording played on really fine reproducing equipment will sound better than a 1960 recording played on a cheap record player. After all, the odds against the best available recording of a piece being available in stereo are pretty poor; electrical recording has been in existence about ten times longer than commercial stereo. And sometimes it's surprising how good even acoustics will sound on a hi-fi. (I heard a 1914 recording of Beethoven's Fifth with the Berlin Philharmonic under Arthur Nikisch recently on Brooklyn College's hi-fi, and while it was obviously not hi-fi I did get some astounding results. With the maximum bass boost, the tympani suddenly became audible.) #What do you think of Bartok's string quartets, if anything? #I surprised myself by reading completely through Willis E. Stone, and not feeling the time was completely wasted. Pretty incredibly funny!

DRIFTWOOD (Sally Kidd)

You and Boggs must both have incredible memories. I have never been able to remember two pages of anything after one reading; and that includes the King James Bible, Shakespeare, Chaucer, Dostoevsky, etc. #College teachers have to wear suits and ties because the administration likes the idea, I suppose. I am a college student, and I wear nothing more formal than sport shirts to class—more often a polo shirt, with or without a sweater over it. There are those of us who feel that respect can be shown in better ways than by dressing up. #I think you will enjoy the mass IQ test planned for the Chicon. I will enjoy it, too, mainly because I know right now who will score highest. Actually, there's nothing wrong with knowing your IQ; it makes about as much sense as knowing your own height. And bragging about it makes as much sense as bragging about your height.

Hello, there! This is the sixth Shadow FAPA mailing! Doesn't seem like three months since the last one, does it? Well, it isn't!
The contents of the mailing are:

PANTOPON #3, 7 pages, published by Ruth Berman
THE LURKING SHADOW Vol. 2 No. 2, 28 pages, published by Chuck Hansen
fap #3, 5 pages including this one, published by Les Gerber, which means me!

The rest of the semi-official information will be found inside somewhere, probably on the first page of fap. Actually, it will be found on page one of fap, because I've already typed it there.

The purpose of this page is to serve as a mailing wrapper.

Next issue, we hope fap will contain a much larger mailing comment section. Send FAPazines, please, people. However, fap will also contain a genuine creative writing section. This issue contains a phoney creative writing section. You will find it on the other side of this page, and it's a fine place to create some writing.

Well, this is considerably more substantial than fap #2 was!

Idle Hands #6
Spinner Reach V2 #1

FROM:

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