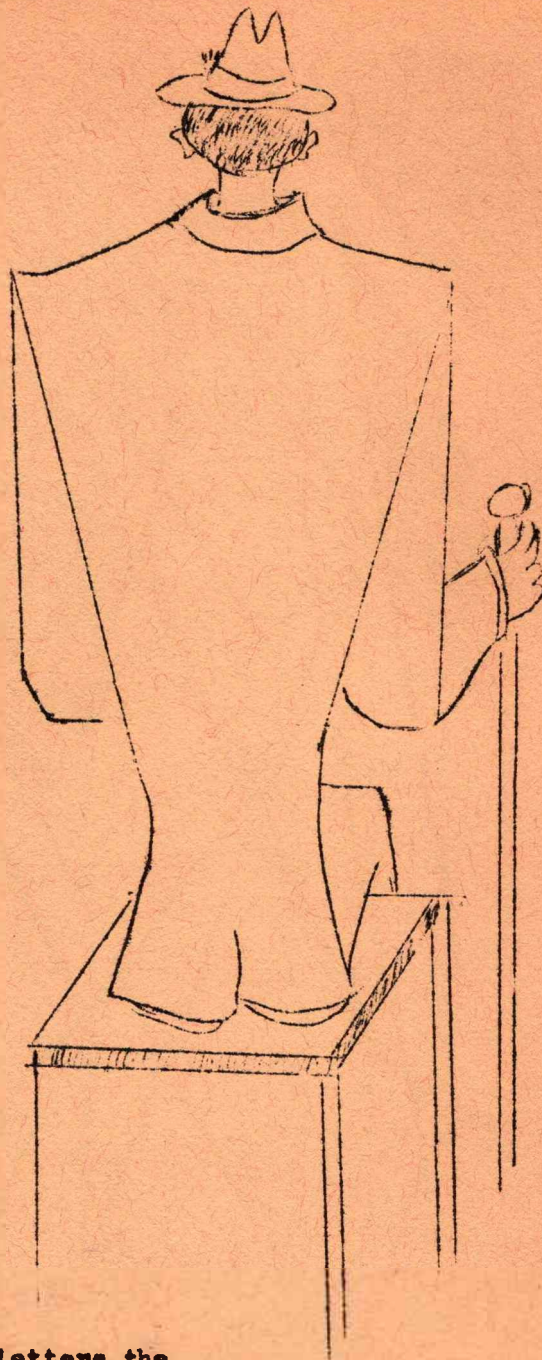


# AS I SEE IT

Comments on N'APA Mailing #19 by

G. M. GARR

Dec. 31, 1963: The Mailing arrived at a very good time -- The last mail delivery of the old year and just in time to make a good start for the New Year. Looks like an unusually interesting batch of material this time. I'm glad to see Phil Kohn made it as a member of the December Mailing, though I must say I still do not understand how it is possible, inasmuch as we have a full roster. As I understand it, membership in N'APA is dependent on membership in NFFF. All NCF memberships expire at midnight on December 31 -- except those who are paid up in advance, such as new members who joined during the preceding year; these new members join not only for the fraction of the present year, but also for the entire calendar year following. If membership in N'APA is handled similarly, then all our memberships expire simultaneously on Dec. 31, instead of expiring one year from the mailing in which one originally joined. So -- with a full roster accumulated during the year -- How Come There's Room? Resignations I can understand -- but it seems hard for me to get used to the idea of dropping members for inactivity...although I agree it is a good way of preventing the accumulation of deadwood. Incidentally, while on the subject of Phil Kohn, perhaps a word of explanation is in order. I expect Phil Kohn will be a highly disturbing member. He has a very irritating manner and a personality which may cause many of you to wonder why I bothered with him. Well, I've worked hard to get Phil into N'APA for two reasons: First, because I sympathized with him. I recognized in his emotional letters the forlorn cry of a human soul lost in a wilderness of loneliness... There seemed to be such an urgent need for communication with his own kind. And isn't that the need which has brought all of us into fandom -- the need to communicate? I hope, for Phil's sake, that here in N'APA he will find the answer to that need. Secondly, I brought him into N'APA because he presents such a challenge: he is the closest thing to an Extra Terrestrial that most of us will ever come in contact with. Trying to communicate with Phil Kohn, it seems to me, is like trying to communicate with someone from an Alien Planet. Even with the aid of a mechanical translator, how can one comprehend thought processes which are totally different from one's own? Phil seems to speak our language and understand the meaning of the words we use. But when he evaluates the facts, events, or ideas we offer, he thinks via mental processes which are so totally different from anything that we are accustomed to here in N'APA -- or in fandom generally (to say nothing of our mundane contacts!) -- that he might as well be from an alien planet. If we ever expect to deal with intelligent life from outer space, perhaps we had better begin by learning to communicate with persons from our own planet who have backgrounds different from our own.



FENRIS #6 - Dave Hulan. Good news to see you are still with us, Dave. For a while there it looked as though we might lose you to a general gaffiation from N3Factivity. "...I don't think that I am bigoted" you say.. Well, naturally! Bigotry is like halitosis -- the person who has it is the last one to find out. Probably because if he were able to recognize his condition, he would already be 2/3 cured. I suppose it is largely a case of "...would some power the giftie gie us, to see ourselves as others see us.."

Jan. 6, 1964: DUBHE - Ed Baker. There is an interesting ethical problem posed by Ed's MCs this time: namely, does the possible half-hour of extra time Ed saved for himself by running his comments together via numbers, justify the extra hours of time he costs the other members of N'APA in thus requiring them to go and hunt up (if they can find it) the previous mailing in order to identify the item being commented on? To say nothing of the discourtesy toward those new members who might have no previous Mailing. Seems to me this is a case of "penny-wise and pound-foolish" applied to minutes and hours instead of money. Or else a selfishness so profound it is willing to waste other's people's hours in order to save a few minutes of one's own. It looks as though this Latin controversy has come around to a full circle: I stated in GZ 4/35 (exactly one year ago this mailing) that Priests at the Ecumenical Council were reported by Archbishop Connolly of Seattle as having difficulty in understanding each other due to local differences in pronunciation of Latin. For a solid year now, Ed has argued that Archbishop Connolly was wrong. He has argued that Church Latin has a standardized pronunciation; that according to the Rev. Michael de Angelis, CRM, Ph.D (who is supposed to have the final sayso in the matter, according to Ed) there could not be any variation in the pronunciation of Latin. But now Ed finally admits there are no less than THREE recognized systems of pronunciation of Latin, not to mention what he calls "small, unimportant" variations... So where does that bring us? Right back to where we started: namely, that in one of the greatest aggregations of Latin-speaking prelates of modern times, it seems some of them had difficulty in understanding each other due to the variant methods of pronunciation! Ed, don't you know when you are licked?

NEOFAN #6 - Owen Hannifen. No doubt it did save your membership, but it certainly can't have been much source of Egoboo. Personally, I'd say that only the cover and first page editorial count, the rest is just (admittedly) junk scraped off the floor.

A SPECIAL ZINE FOR OL' HARV FORMAN - Also by Hannifen. Yup, that's what it looked like, all right -- only Norm's was a bit worse. You forgot to run yours on legal-length paper with ragged edges...

EXCALIBUR - L. Bailes & A. Katz. Guess I'll have to study this a little longer before attempting to comment. But that's quite a comment in itself, come to think of it. Why should one have to study a fanzine in order to make heads or tails of it?

Feb. 3, 1964: BAYTA 1. Bill Bowers. Welcome back, Bill. This is good stuff. I admire your courage in writing how you felt about the adulation of JFK -- it was a sickening spectacle of maudlin behavior. It may be all right to say so now, when the first wave of hysteria is over, but it took guts for anyone to say so -- or even to think it -- in the midst of all that post-assassination idolatry. Interesting comment of your religious background; "My parents ..are rather strict religionists. They, for instance, don't approve of: smoking, dancing, swearing, and television.." I recognize the pattern of disapproval. When I was a teenager the same sequence of disapproval ran toward bobbed hair, silk stockings, and movies.. (For that matter, I have one sister-in-law who, to this day, has not been in a movie theatre. She does have a TV, though, so I suppose by now she must have caught up on all the old movies she missed the first time around.) It seems very strange to me that many sincerely religious people waste so much disapproval on superficial things like the changing cultural patterns in the social structure! I remember

how puzzled I often felt in my teenage search for the true values of religion to be sidetracked on such relatively unimportant taboos! How can anyone be so foolish as to mistake such ephemera for "sins"? I am still puzzled by it -- surely there is enough to do in battling the real sins against God and Man: hatred, cruelty, selfishness, and indifference to the pain of others, without wasting breath and energy fighting the inexorable change caused by economic growth. The 10 Commandments say nothing at all about smoking, dancing and television -- but ~~something~~ what they DO mention, is still filling the jails, hospitals, Juvenile Detention Homes, with broken hearts.. There ARE sins which destroy lives.. but they are not such trifling matters as silk stockings and bobbed hair. I felt at the time that it was an insult to my intelligence that my elders should even pretend these were important. And probably that is what is happening to you when you say your parents' religion "...is simply not for me". Dig a little deeper, Bill -- you may find something that really IS for you...

PHIL KOHN SAYS... regarding my choice of material as excerpted from his letters. "One unfair point in your selection of my writings--and if you don't correct it, I won't play. You never indicate what I'm answering at the moment, you don't even explain that it's from an extended series of letters.." But inasmuch as Phil left the selection and presentation of the material entirely up to my judgement, and especially since he never bothered to date the letters so I COULD indicate they were from "an extended series", I really don't see that he has any kick coming. I suspect what really bugged Phil was that, seen in print, his remarks didn't look as brilliant as he thought they were when he made them.

HIPPICALORIC No. 5 - Ted Johnstone. Hoo Boy! That tomato red against the fuchsia of Phil Castora's mag has just about blinded me! Congratulations to you and your wife, Ted, and best wishes for a long and happy life together. ..Very interesting review on "Ladybug, Ladybug.." The only other review of this film I've seen so far also mentions the propaganda angle but omits to stress that it was based on a true incident.

BOOK OF THE UNDEAD - Phil Castora. Glad to have you with us, Phil. I got a chortle or two out of the mag, but nothing sparked a comment. Enjoyable nattering.. I'll be looking forward to your Mailing Comments.

INTERIM #1 - Mark Irwin. Howdy-doo - Welcome to N'APA, and a nice big mag like this IS very welcome, too.. I think this is about the first honest-to-God serconzine I've taken the time to read through for a long time, and I must admit it was very well done. I especially enjoyed the reprint of Gernsback's tirade against unimaginative clods who open their big fat mouths generation after generation to say there's nothing left to learn, because they already know it all... True, too true. And as for this plaint that there is nothing left to extrapolate in the field of stf -- did you see the CBS "Chronicle" program that featured an hour-long survey of recent advances in scientific knowledge during the past few decades? Personally, I'd say that anyone with the gall to say there are no new fields of stf to explore after seeing THAT program, has certainly lost all Sense-Of-Wonder!

AUTHOR INDEX TO F&SF - Don Franson. That's a lot of work, Don. Nice job of repro, too. It should come in handy.

2-4-64: VAUX HALL FANATIC - Seth Johnson. Let's see if I read your suggestion correctly: A publisher (ampubber, of course) should be secured who would run this LETTERHACK off for the members. (Someone we could depend on to keep on doing it, naturally!) Then N3F members who want to see their comments published "as is" without being chopped to bits editorially, could type them directly on master or stencil, depending on the duper, and send same to LETTERHACK with a pro-rata donation to cover publishing expenses. (This 'donation' is the tricky part, it seems to me. How much is enough? I've heard guesses as low as 10¢ per page -- but it cost me nearly \$2 per page to publish and mail TIGHTBEAM. This would have to be

pinned down to a specific figure to avoid misunderstandings. I suppose the person to make the decision would be the person who agrees to do the publishing.) This publisher takes no responsibility for what is said, how it looks, or any feuds resulting therefrom. His responsibility is solely to publish what is sent him, whether much or little, on a regularly announced schedule. And if the stuff is half illegible, misspelled, utter crud, he won't be blamed for it. Neither will he be given any credit if it comes out beautifully clear, sensible and interesting to read. It will be the members' mag --- not the publisher's. The perfect Forum we've all dreamed about but never quite succeeded in achieving, due to the habit publishers have of figuring if they are paying for a mag, they are entitled to edit what goes in it... Well.. I dunno. It sure sounds lovely, but... WHO'LL DO ALL THAT WORK FOR NO EGOBOO.

Point #2: I don't think so much of the idea of setting up a Committee to evaluate N3F candidates. Too much chance of playing favorites. Besides, it would just lead to more buck-passing. Instead of the members deciding for themselves who to vote for, they'd expect the Committee to do their thinking for them. Anyway, it really isn't necessary. Anybody who does anything at all in N3F is bound to become known to the rest of the members. And anybody that files for Office who has never done a doggone thing for N3F so that the members never had a chance to know what they stand for, is just not ready to be elected to office. Point 3: Waiting Lists. It is a mistake to go into a tizzy at the sight of a Waiting List. There is plenty of opportunity for an active WLER to get into the picture without having to whip up a new set of rules about it! There are lettercols in N'APAsines; and if any WLER is so anxious to get in that he wants a mag of his own in the mailing, there's usually somebody who'll send it in for him under a member's "frank". If they are really interested they'll find ways to keep busy while they are waiting, so I say "leave 'em alone" and stop fretting.. Point 4: Another APA? Sure, why not? But let's not rush into anything until we have AT LEAST another 30 or so on the WL... Point 5: Good work on the FHC, Seth, but don't expect too much help from us ampubbers.. I've sent many a mag out to the names on your recommended lists, but very few ever bother to acknowledge them. Besides, what makes you think we apans want subscriptions? Point 6: RRs..uh,uh. I like 'em, but they take up too much time. If I'm going to do all that writing, I might as well get the egoboo of seeing it in print. Point 7: Art Bureau & MssBu. I surely do wish somebody WOULD get this working again. I've written at least twice to Owen Hannifen who is listed as the current Chrmn of this Bureau, but I've never even had a reply from him, let alone any material! What's more, I've written to new members from the Welcommittee lists who are supposedly "interested in art", but no reply from them, either. I'd welcome and gladly use an active Art source. No comment on the other excellent material in thish except to say I enjoyed reading it. Very nice looking mag, except rather pale..

MICKIFY #2 - John Kusske, Jr. This is a remarkable fanzine in several ways --- it has sercon material of great depth, then falls into purple passages of purest crud, i.e., "...I had trode the leave-strewn ground..". (Ugh!) But I like the personality revealed -- there is evidence of a sensitive mind at work, and I am happy we have him as a member. I liked the two little poems.. More? Re the issue of "Moral Principles": You have the right idea, John, but the wrong application in your contention that it takes "more courage to break..than to follow" when dealing in the realm of opinions. A man who is willing to weasel out of a difficult position by abandoning his moral principles in order to "stay in circulation" proves himself thereby to be nothing but a clod with no moral principles worth bothering with.. But a man who is able to face the fact that he has been clinging to an empty prejudice just for the sake of his own stubborn opinion, and has the courage to admit he was wrong by abandoning it -- that is, indeed, a "very special person". However -- and this is the catch -- it is the ability to recognize the difference between an 'empty prejudice' or a 'moral principle' that separates the clods from the very special persons! Don't take it hard if you get chewed out for expressing this opinion, John. We need members who are not afraid to admit they are trying to think things through... in fact, we need members who are not afraid to THINK.

FOOFARAW #10 - Fred Patten. Congratulations on your job. I can't think of any greater blessing in life than to have a job one really likes. And I hope for your sake that it does turn out to be, as you put it, "...a niche in life". (That is, if a 'niche' is all you want out of life.) There's something so 'ivory tower' about a library -- the hushed quiet, the subdued air people put on when they walk in.. So remote from the noisy activity of Mundania.. Yes, I did look up those C.S.Lewis Juveniles you and Pat Scott\* recommended. Thanks. As you will see elsewhere in GZ, I read them all. (\*McLean - Sorry, Pat. For a moment I forgot..)

RACHE #12 - Bruce Pelz. No more Apactivity Chart? I miss it.. Oh, so THAT'S why the so-called "slang dictionaries" on Highschool Library shelves were causing parental hysterics all over the country! No wonder.

ANTHEM - Harry Stine (Huh? Who he?) & Fred Patten. Noted.

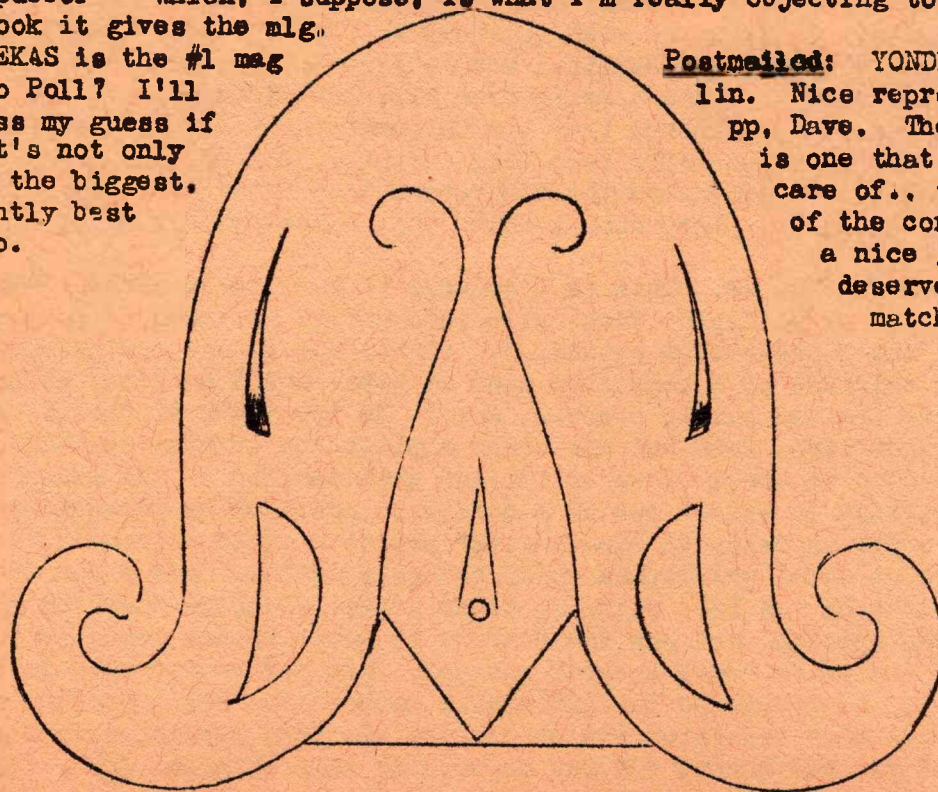
TOXICON - Fred Wilimczyk. These six pages of nice-looking, easy-to-read comments are good reading, but for the life of me I can't seem to find any hook on which to base a mailing comment.. Sorry to lose GARDYLOO from the migs.

HALF LIFE - Stan Woolston. What, no MCs? Stan, you can do better than that...

2-5-64: NIEKAS - Ed Meskys. Why should I "bitch" about you doing something I did myself -- and for the identical reason? Actually, I think that is about the ONLY excuse possible for putting more than one mag in the mailing: namely, limitations of deadline which cut short the first mag in order to get it to the OE on time, only to discover later there was time enough to put the rest in the mailing after all. In that case no harm is done: the second part can be stapled to the first to finish the job as it was intended in the beginning. What I bitch about are these one-or-two sheeters tossed into the mailing for no reason at all except they happen to be lying around. These fluttering nuisances could just as well have been stapled together and submitted as one decent-sized mag in the first place, for all the difference it would make to the editor... just lack of planning and evidence of Dontgiveashititis on the part of the pubber -- which, I suppose, is what I'm really objecting to, as much as the untidy look it gives the mlg.

Wanna bet NIEKAS is the #1 mag in the Egoboo Poll? I'll certainly miss my guess if it isn't. It's not only consistently the biggest, but consistently best material, too.

Postmailed: YONDER - Dave Ettlin. Nice repro on these 30 pp, Dave. The only criticism is one that time will take care of.. the immaturity of the contents. Such a nice job of repro deserved contents to match.

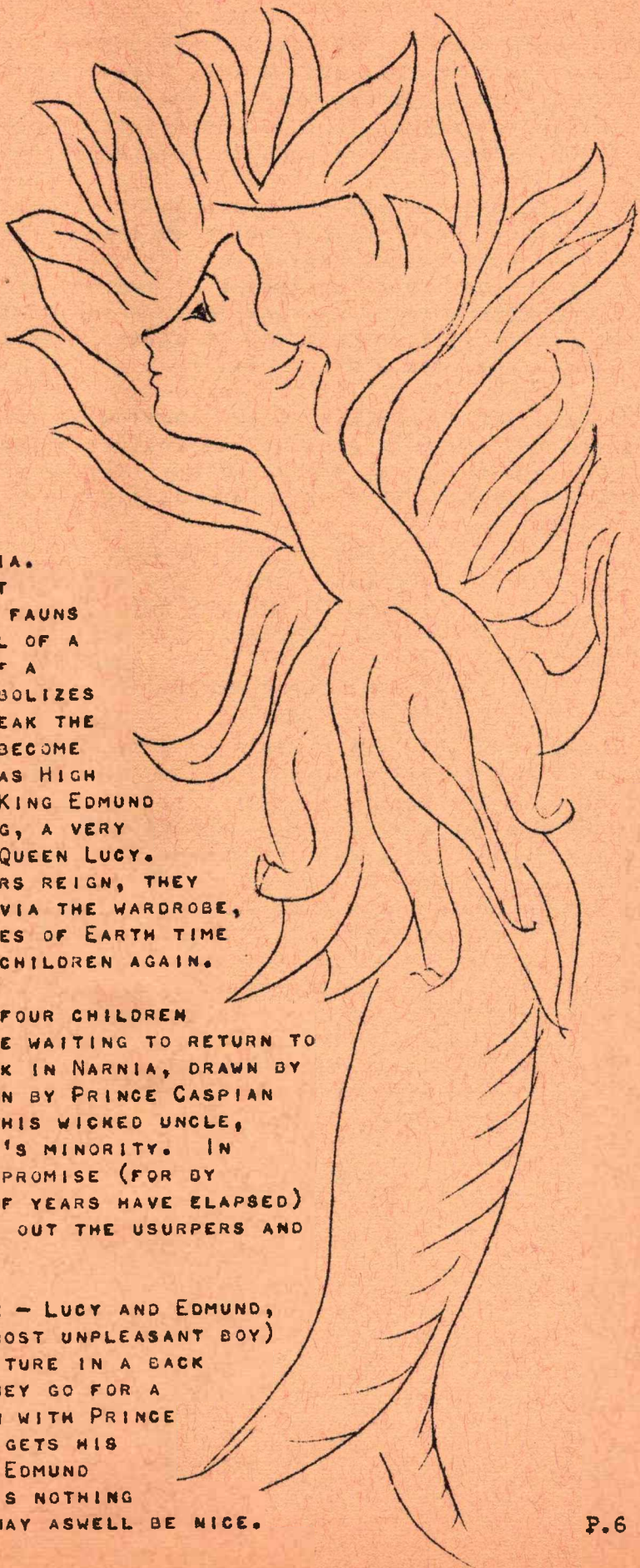


# THE C S LEWIS JUVENILES

1. THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE - LUCY, EDMUND, PETER AND SUSAN WALK THROUGH THE BACK WALL OF THEIR UNCLE'S WARDROBE INTO THE LAND OF NARNIA. THEY FIND A LAND OF ENCHANTMENT WITH TALKING ANIMALS, DWARVES, FAUNS AND DRYADS, ALL UNDER THE SPELL OF A WICKED WITCH. WITH THE HELP OF A MARVELOUS LION, ASLAN (WHO SYMBOLIZES THE POWER OF GOODNESS) THEY BREAK THE SPELL OF THE WICKED WITCH AND BECOME RULERS. THEY REIGN IN NARNIA AS HIGH KING PETER AND HIS CO-RULERS, KING EDMUND (WHO WAS, BEFORE HE BECAME KING, A VERY NAUGHTY BOY), QUEEN SUSAN AND QUEEN LUCY. WHEN, AFTER SEEMINGLY MANY YEARS REIGN, THEY RETURN TO THEIR UNCLE'S HOUSE VIA THE WARDROBE, THEY DISCOVER ONLY A FEW MINUTES OF EARTH TIME HAD ELAPSED AND THEY ARE JUST CHILDREN AGAIN.

2. PRINCE CASPIAN - THE SAME FOUR CHILDREN ARE SNATCHED FROM A BENCH WHILE WAITING TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AND FIND THEMSELVES BACK IN NARNIA, DRAWN BY A BLAST ON THE MAGIC HORN BLOWN BY PRINCE CASPIAN WHO IS ABOUT TO BE DEPOSED BY HIS WICKED UNCLE, NOW ACTING KING DURING CASPIAN'S MINORITY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR ANCIENT PROMISE (FOR BY NARNIAN TIME, MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAVE ELAPSED) THEY HELP PRINCE CASPIAN DRIVE OUT THE USURPERS AND REGAIN HIS RIGHTFUL THRONE.

3. VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER - LUCY AND EDMUND, PLUS THEIR COUSIN EUSTACE (A MOST UNPLEASANT BOY) FALL INTO NARNIA THROUGH A PICTURE IN A BACK BEDROOM IN EUSTACE'S HOME. THEY GO FOR A LONG SEA VOYAGE OF EXPLORATION WITH PRINCE CASPIAN, DURING WHICH EUSTACE GETS HIS "COMEUPPANCE" AND DECIDES (AS EDMUND IN THE FIRST BOOK) THAT THERE'S NOTHING TO GAIN BY BEING NASTY SO HE MAY ASWELL BE NICE.



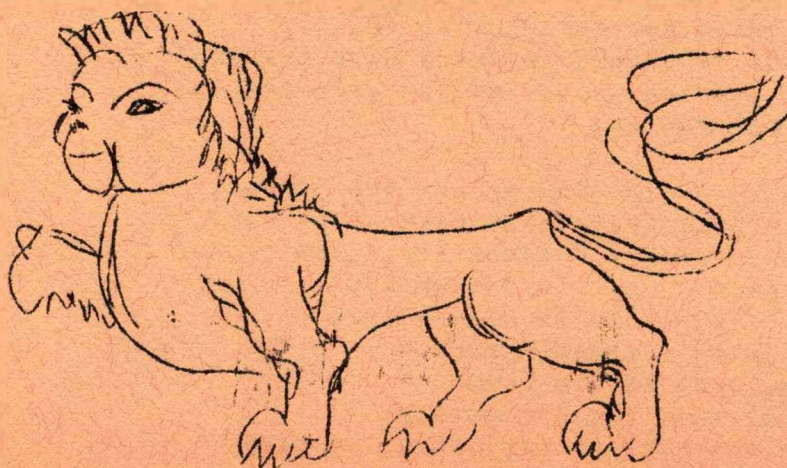
4. THE SILVER CHAIR - EUSTACE SCRUBBS (NOW A NICE PERSON) AND JILL POLE (A GIRL FROM HIS SCHOOL) ESCAPE INTO NARNIA WHILE DODGING THE SCHOOL BULLIES. ASLAN FINDS THEM AND SENDS THEM ON A MISSION TO FIND THE LOST PRINCE - RILIAN, SON OF KING CASPIAN THE TENTH - WHO HAS BEEN ABDUCTED BY THE WITCH. WITH ASLAN'S AID THEY BRING HIM HOME IN TIME TO SUCCEED TO HIS FATHER'S THRONE.

5. THE HORSE AND HIS BOY - A LOST-HEIR-TO-THE-THRONE-IN-DISGUISE AND A TALKING HORSE ESCAPE FROM SLAVERY AND FIND THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE. THE TIME SEQUENCE PLACES THIS STORY IN THE PERIOD OF THE FIRST BOOK, SO THAT IT COULD VERY WELL BE READ AS AN ADDITIONAL ADVENTURE AT THE END OF BOOK #1, THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE - ABOUT HALFWAY THROUGH THE LAST CHAPTER, JUST ABOUT THE TIME THEY ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL TIRED OF BEING KINGS AND QUEENS. PERSONALLY, I ENJOYED THIS BOOK THE MOST OF ANY.

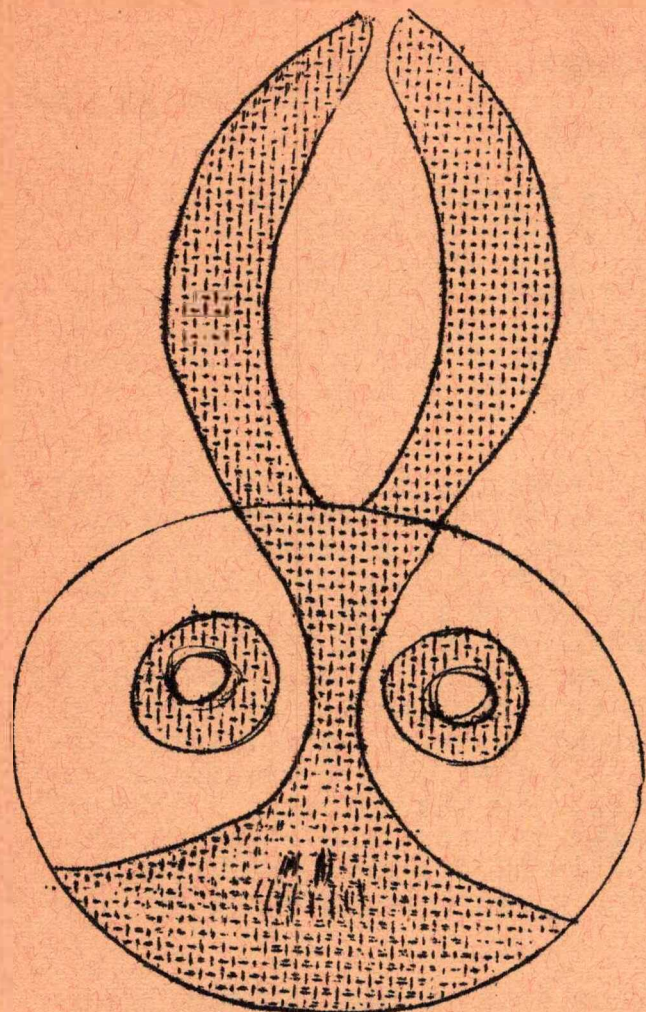
6. THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW - AN EXPLANATION OF THE BEGINNING OF NARNIA AND THE REASON FOR THE WARDROBE'S MAGIC, AS WELL AS TYING IN SEVERAL OTHER LOOSE ENDS. TIMEWISE, THIS SHOULD BE THE FIRST BOOK OF THE SERIES AND IF I WERE RECOMMENDING THIS SERIES FOR THE FIRST READING, I WOULD SUGGEST THEY BE READ IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW  
THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE  
THE HORSE AND HIS BOY  
PRINCE CASPIAN  
VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER  
THE SILVER CHAIR  
THE LAST BATTLE

7. THE LAST BATTLE - THE SEVENTH BOOK IN THIS SERIES BRINGS ALL THE WORLDS AND MOST OF THE CHARACTERS TOGETHER IN ONE FINAL ADVENTURE. THE CLASSIC FORCES OF GOOD AND EVIL (AS SYMBOLIZED BY ASLAN AND TASH) ARE PRECIPITATED INTO A DESTRUCTIVE BATTLE BY AN APE WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN EITHER AND THUS DESTROYS NOT ONLY THE WORLD OF NARNIA, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE AS WELL.. THIS RATHER GRUESOME ENDING IS SOMEWHAT LIGHTENED BY THE CONCEPT OF A GLORIFIED "INNER NARNIA" FROM WHICH NONE OF THE GOOD CHARACTERS SHALL EVER DEPART. (THE REASON BEING THAT THEY ARE ALL DEAD -- ALL EXCEPT SUSAN, WHO LOST INTEREST IN NARNIA ABOUT THE TIME SHE GAINED AN INTEREST IN BOYS, SO DIDN'T COME WITH THEM THIS TRIP. ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT KNOW IT AT THE TIME, THE HUMAN PARTICIPANTS IN THIS 'FINAL BATTLE' HAD ALL BEEN KILLED IN A RAILROAD ACCIDENT... "BUT," SAYS THE AUTHOR, "THE THINGS THAT BEGAN TO HAPPEN AFTER THAT WERE SO GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL THAT I CANNOT WRITE THEM.." (AND LET US HOPE IT PROVED SO FOR C. S. LEWIS HIMSELF - WHO DIED LAST NOVEMBER AS ONE OF THE THREE GREAT MEN WHO DIED THAT MONTH: C. S. LEWIS, ALDOUS HUXLEY, AND PRESIDENT KENNEDY.







# EPISTLES AND EGOB00

12-18-63

some better, but won't really gain until she gets transfusions. Will have to take her to hospital for those. What a terrible thing to happen to Janey in her condition. Spoiled her Holidays. She was looking forward to sending her Xmas cards.

Her mother,  
/s/ Mrs. Johnson  
N5525 Lidgerwood  
Spokane 23, Wash.

(GMC: Although the broken bones and bruises have had time to heal in the five months since it happened, it's not too late to send her a card telling how sorry we are to hear it happened at all. Some people seem to have all the luck - bad, that is - and Marijane has certainly had more than most.)

(FLASH! A laste-minute note from Sparkle Janey herself, just in time for E&E!!)  
Dear Gem, A short one to let you know I'm getting along fine & to thank you so much for the notes & cards. I'm not exactly running any races yet, but can be up in my chair twice a day now for a couple of hours at a time. So I'm mighty grateful for a lot of things, to a lot of people... This has been quite an experience for me in a lot of ways.. I feel wonderful, get a bit tired and Achey, but it feels so good to be on the upgrade & am aiming at good weather & being able to get out in the car again. It seems like a long time, but has gone fast, too. After I got back to feeding myself, being able to write & crochet, I found time going much faster... I sure have fallen away from N3F & fanac... Am paid up for this year as don't want to lose contact... Am always real pleased to hear from you & still remember, very fondly, our nice times together. Drop a line any time. I love it. /s/ Janie 2/22/64

(Richie Benyo, 118 South Street, Jim Thorpe, Pa. 18229)

January 18, 1964

Dear Gertrude (hope you don't mind too much):

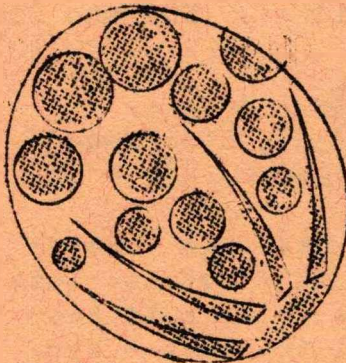
I recently joined the N3F, and I was welcomed by Stan Woolston, who told me to contact you for my quest in the correspondence. The main reason I joined NFFF at the time is that after bothering Bill Osten for a few months for him to try to find me a fanfan correspondent of my own age, he gave up and suggested I join N3F, so he sponsored me. Since joining I've become involved with Stan's new reviewzine that he is planning (SF PARADE), and he's going to take me on as a columnist.

Better get down to facts, I guess: About myself -- I'm presently 17, and a senior, with interests in track, creative writing, and mainly in SCIENCE FICTION and "fantasy adventure". My favorite authors are Burroughs, Norton, vanVogt, Leinster, deCamp, Asimov, Kline, Verne, etc. I save mostly more inexpensive ERB material, ACE s-f pbs, and s-f mags (certain ones, like PLANET, THRILLING WONDER, STARTLING, etc). Recently, I've become the editor of my own fanzine -- GALACTIC OUTPOST and although I'm in debt, I have a good time pubbing it. I'd like to be a pro author some day, and hope after high school to get into college at Bloomsburg State College, where I've applied. I presently have about 20 correspondents, all but one male, and Andre Norton is out of my age range. I'd like to correspond with as many female fen as would care to, between the ages of 6 to 20. I'll also correspond with more teenage male s-feers, if there aren't any girls between 6 and 20 who care to.

Thanks for your time and trouble, and best wishes on your job as Correspondence Bureau Chairman!

Sincerely,

/s/ Richie Benyo



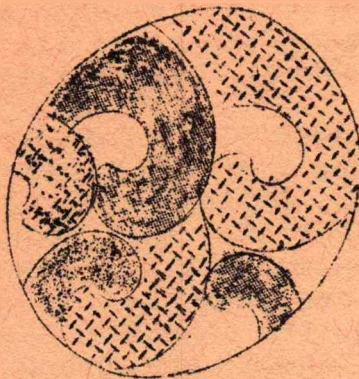
(GMC: Thanks for the good wishes, Richie. I'm probably going to need 'em! Here it is the end of February already and I still don't know what I'm supposed to do..... As far as I can see at this point, the Correspondence Bureau is as useless as teats on a bull now that all the former committees that used to comprise it are all functioning as Committees on their own. The original duties of the CorBu Chrmn when the job was

first set up was, as I recall it, to supervise and co-ordinate the activities it controlled; the Wellcommittee, the Round Robins, the Recruiters, the Pen Pals, etc. The CorBu bulletin circulated among these committees to provide information and to avoid duplication of effort. But who needs that sort of thing nowadays? About the only thing left for the CorBu, it seems to me, is to re-activate the long defunct Pen Pals Committee... But, even so, I haven't the faintest idea of where to start looking for femme fenne between the ages of 6 and 20... I don't even know if there ARE any.)

(Kris Carey, 1016 Second Street, Wasco, California 93280)

1-30-64

Dear GEM,



Maybe I should address you as the un-cut diamond of Seattle; in any case, I get that impression by reading over your EPISTLE and EGO-BOO. Certainly no one gets by with a remark without getting some sort of repartee every five lines or so.

(GMC: Why not think of me as one of those durable industrial diamonds that are noted for their sharp abrasive qualities? After all, what can make a sharper cutting edge than a diamond? It will even cut steel..)

Not that I object to your comments on the letters received, it's just that this consistent cutting into the letter to insert remarks makes for disconcerting reading. Really none of my business, I suppose... it's your zine, but I just don't like the practice of chopping up a person's letter in that manner.

For the 10 or so collective months that I have been sent copies of GEMZINE, I wish to thank you and say that I look forward to this zine and enjoy reading it; your comments are always pertinent and straightforward, and there's always a concourse of new and interesting ideas permeating GZ's pages. One thing, though, you might obtain some better quality inks to break the formidable look of that hard-copy black mimeo ink.

(GMC: I'd love to -- but have you any suggestions as to WHERE??)

Also, in my copy, page five was followed by page eight-nine, then by six-seven. This had me quite befuddled until I noticed the page markings after about 10 minutes of intense concentration.

(GMC: I'm sorry about that. I got two piles switched, somehow, while collating and didn't discover it until after all the mags had been assembled, stapled, and some of them shipped off.. I have no way of knowing how many of my readers received defective copies. The only bright spot in the whole thing was that - contrary to my usual practice - the Pages were numbered and so the mistake could be corrected.)

I'm afraid I didn't get GEMZINE 4/37 so this Catholic controversy that seems to be raging through your twilltone is not too clear. It seems, though, that the question has been raised why Federal funds should support parochial schools? Even though my father used to be a professor at a Catholic private school (military), I don't feel quite well enough briefed to take the matter to task; and even if I were, I don't think I'd want to be torn apart with inserted remarks every line or so, anyway.

I want to contest your statement in Chuck Peterson's letter where you say that Catholic schools are open to all, etc. I live in a town that has a private Catholic-run grammar school. As to who gets to attend, they are very strict, giving decided preference to children from Catholic families over ordinary faiths.

(GMC: That is true in some schools, but not from "anti-faith" reasons. Here in Ballard where I live, for instance, the Catholic school cannot accommodate even all the Catholic children, so they give preference to those families who are most active in the

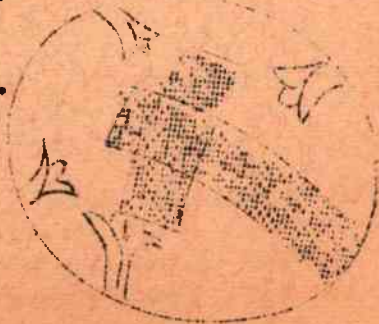
Parish. This is a discrimination based on lack of classrooms, not on bigotry. Wherever there is room, non-Catholic children are welcome to attend and many Protestant families - those who can afford it - do send their children to Catholic schools. Especially boarding schools.)

Not only that, but their tuition is exorbitant...far above a reasonable level, considering that the kids don't live at the school, nor eat there. They are, in practice, paying solely for the 'privilege' of attending a private school. Not only that, but the children attending this school look down upon our public schools with a condescending air, and intimate that they are much the superior to the kids attending public schools. In truth, the opposite is in effect, for the kids attending their 'private school' who change to public schools, for one reason or the other, get far worse grades than they ever did in the Catholic school. This is particularly true for those going into high school from private school.

(GMC: That depends on the individual schools, I suspect, for I have heard just the opposite charge. In some places, especially where the public schools have gone in for the so-called 'progressive methods' I have heard that the highschool teachers could always tell the Catholics from the public schools because the Catholics could spell and read and knew their basics like alphabets and multiplication tables. They had better classroom behavior and study habits. Any highschool teachers present who can speak on their experience in this regard?)

Now, I'm not an atheist or agnostic, but the textbooks and workbooks that the Catholic children use are filled halfway with religion. All the illustrations show some religious motif (i.e. Mary, or the like) throughout the book and half of each class delves into some form or another of religion. This is all right if you want to become a priest or a nun, but the public school books and study materials beat these all to limbo. Besides, the public school books and study aids are much more concise and direct, without a lot of distracting counterplay on religion. You'll find those children attending parochial schools graduate brainwashed with the belief that religion is synonymous with education, and much more in the same direction. This was also true at the Catholic military school that my father taught at in San Francisco (He taught at three in the San Cisco Bay Area for a goodly number of years) so I assume it to be the general rule. To support this fact, all my father's family were Catholic and had all attended a private school at some time in their lives, and for it demonstrated the same attitude that I mentioned above. We became Episcopalian after my father died, but all the same this seems to be the case for the Catholic parochial school in general. And this "little bit more to their education" that you mention is 99 and 99/100 per cent religion, anyway.

(GMC: Naturally - what else? But tell me, why should it be worse for children to graduate "brainwashed" with belief that religion is an integral part of every experience in life - which, of course, it is - than for them to graduate from public schools "brainwashed" with belief that religion is unimportant? Not even worth taking as seriously as football?)



As to Bigotry and Faith, you'll find that the religious bigots are the worst kind. A person intolerantly devoted to a religious belief won't listen to any sort of talk that might suggest that there is a different kind of religion that is just as good as his. I delved further into the definition of Faith and Belief, and found the following statement as to differences in definition: "Belief and faith, though often used interchangeably, are not quite parallel, for belief may or may not imply certitude in the one assents and faith, in its older and religious sense, always does even when there is no evidence or proof (re: Peterson's statements about proof of existence of an idea). In current usage, faith often suggests or implies credulity and overreadiness or staunchness to accept. Credence stresses assent without implying, apart from the context, weak or strong grounds for belief or credulity or its absence; credit implies assent on other grounds than direct proof, usually that of a reputation for truth in the one who proposes something for acceptance."

(GMO: Are you sure you copied the above correctly? It doesn't seem to make much sense as is. To be sure, the nouns Faith and Belief (with capital letters) are often used interchangeably, whereas the small "faith" and "belief" carry the implication that "faith" implies assent as well as credence but that "belief" implies credence due to proof. But I do not see what this has to do with the discussion on bigotry. Whether a person's Faith is based on voluntary assent or on what he considers to be adequate proof, the net result is the same.)

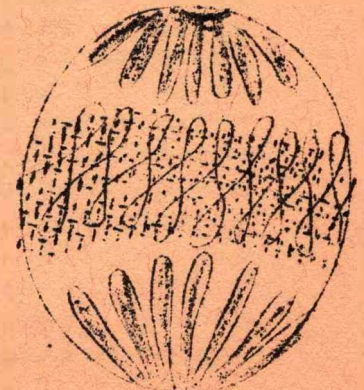
Indeed, to a person sold on religion, you cannot safely talk philosophically about the Truth of religion or Ultimate Being without being condemned to the eternal fires of hell.

(GMO: Have you ever tried to discuss "safely" with a Southern Segregationist the philosophical aspects of Integration?)

This is bigotry, plainly and simply, when a person is so wrapped up in his religion that he can't tolerate dissention to his beliefs...and don't glibly pass that off as "faith." Let's face it, FAITH and BIGOTRY Can be synonymous.

(GMO: Let's also face it that a man can have Tuberculosis and Lung Cancer at the same time, but that does not mean they are synonymous. One can have Bigotism with his Faith but that does not make them synonymous. I think you are getting your semantics scrambled - could there be a little bigotry doing the scrambling?)  
Your comments on the Stonehenge replica and the Sam Hill museum were quite interesting. I had no idea that such a place existed. I would certainly like to visit the place sometime.

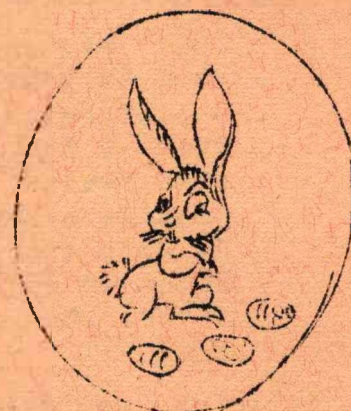
I agree with you one hundred percent on those remarks you made about the unfortunate incident in November. There was just too much sensationalism about the whole affair...too much pathos, and too much false sorrow. Even though we were shocked with the impossibility of the occurrence, the least we could have done was to maintain a respectful silence towards the matter; this, to me, would have been the most fitting attitude to take. This same attitude prevailed over the amateur radio bands for weeks after the event.



Not one mention was made to the sad happenings in Dallas by Hams in a fitting, in fact the ultimate, tribute to the whole matter. In exactly the opposite direction was the news media coverage, and the radio programs that burst forth every 15 minutes with more news about "poor John-John and his sad lot" and more of the same. What really sets my blood boiling are these molded busts of the former president and the multitudes of portraits "that will immortalize this great man in your home, forever." Or "Get your own JFK memorial bronze, silver or gold (prices proportionately higher for gold and silver) plaque on an oak backing to pay fitting tribute to this great American in your home for only \$9.95." This sort of thing makes me sick...manufacturers out to sucker the public with these items solely in the interest of making money on the man. These items are blossoming out everywhere. You can even find them in the supermarkets. I ask you, isn't this making a business matter out of a national tragedy?

(GMC: I agree. It is disgusting. But don't blame the manufacturers entirely. The type of Make-a-fast-buck mentality that used to sell their own daughters into slavery before decent people put a stop to it, is still in there looking for a way to make a profit.)

I think your opinions about the "lefty slanted commentators" are 'way off base, though. They are no more communist than my great-grandad's beard. They are just caught up in the great way of "capitalistic democracy", and the sensationalism that is typical of all news media.



(GMC: Kris, I don't mean to shock you, but has the possibility ever entered your mind that you are so used to hearing only the leftist propaganda that you are not able to recognize it for what it is?)

Madam Nhu's comments were entirely unfair in their accusations towards the U.S. and she was acting solely out of bitterness and self-pity. Evidently you don't know about Madame Nhu's activities in Viet Nam within the framework of her own government. She was not the kindly, helpful and anxious woman some would wrongly believe, but was in truth the opposite, and almost a virtual dictator in some aspects; Besides that, she was a bigot about her religion, and her people's beliefs.

(GMC: How do you know Mme Nhu was all these things? Were you there? No, this is the "lefty-slanted" propaganda I was talking about -- and evidently you have swallowed it hook, line, and sinker. What are the facts in this case? The fact is Mme Nhu came to this nation to alert our Government to what was going on in her country. She pleaded desperately for a hearing in the face of the most appalling rudeness and discourtesy. Even while she tried to tell it, the very thing happened that she came about. Her husband and brother were assassinated, the government overthrown, and our program against the Communists sabotaged to a standstill! Now things are in such a hopeless mess that our Government is planning on pulling out altogether. And they might as well, because all the millions of dollars and thousands of American lives have been thrown away uselessly. Who gained

by that so-called "coup"? Only the Communists... But it was our State Department that was behind the deal - just as Mme Nhu said when she pleaded for President Kennedy to listen. Why do you suppose Cambodia cut off aid from the US and kicked out all Americans? Because they were up to the same thing in Cambodia. It is no secret now. If you haven't read it in your own newspapers, it is probably only because you didn't bother. Here in Seattle the Hearst newspaper bluntly stated in a column by Frank Conniff (Feb. 5): "There can be no doubt that a group within the State Department set about actively to overthrow the government of President Diem." Mme Nhu was telling the truth -- and the only "bitterness" about it was that the truth was bitter.)

Let's see some more of Sally Bethea's poems. Well, time to end this missive. I, too, hope I haven't offended anyone directly, most of my ideas were only constructive criticisms and, above all, please send me the nextish of GZ.

yours,

Kris Carey  
1016 2nd St.  
Wasco, Calif. 93280

(GMC: As to Sally Bethea's poems, that's a long story. If I have time, I'll try to cover it in Baitbox.. Re the nextish of GZ - I thought those markings on the copy of MAOH III you sent me - and for which I thank you - were "Trd and PM"? I assumed it was a PM to N'APA, in which case you'd get it anyway... (hint, hint))

(Irvin Koch, 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37402)

2/1/64

Dear Mrs. Carr, Thanks for sending me your N'APAZine

Thanks for sending me your N'APAZine. It is unquestionably the best fanzine I've seen (though I haven't seen very many). The cover was better than many prozine covers.

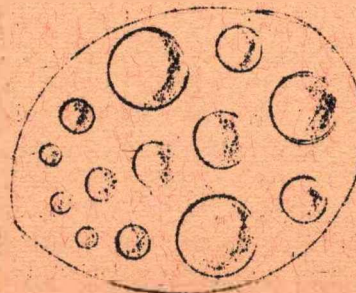
It may interest you to know that my "attempt" at a zine will be in the Mar. mailing of N'APA - so brace yourself.

I must disagree with your comment, "But when the chips are down, the Catholic Church is the only one with something to offer that's independent of money." First, are you a Catholic? I'm Jewish. I could give you a loooong lecture but all I could accomplish would be to start an argument. The thing is that Judaism predates money. Also, Judaism has always flourished best under the worst conditions, but a few of the brightest periods were in prosperous times. That is why I say Judaism is independent of money as much or more than the Catholic Church.

Fanatically, (SF & Fwise only)

/s/ Irvin Koch

(GMC: You're quite right, Irvin. I forgot that Judaism also has something to offer when the chips are down.. After all, that's where the Catholics got it in the first place. Welcome to N'APA. I'll be looking forward to your 'zine.)



(Clyde Kuhn, 615 Pacheco Blvd., Los Banos, California, 93635) 2/12/64

Dear Mrs. Carr,

I was very much pleased to receive your Fanize, although I am wondering as to where my name is being picked up for last week I received Kris Carey's "Mach Three" and at the time if any more show up I will be sure that something is afoot.

(GMC: Seth Johnson is "afoot" -- he included your name in a list of potential fans to whom he asked N'APANs and others to send copies of their fanzines. He also asked us to write letters telling you why we sent them, but I guess we just ignored that part of the request.)

I enjoyed Carey's article on German SF by Franz Rottensteiner so much that I immediately wrote to both, asking Carey how I could get into the world (I was introduced to SF fandom by Seth Johnson a year or so ago) of fandom, and to Rottensteiner because I am planning a European Education. I received today, along with your Fanize a most thoughtful and warm reply from Rottensteiner. As for Carey, I haven't heard from him yet.

I really had been hooked on Fandom last year but I felt that I wouldn't have enough time to study and write/read anyway now that I am disgusted with my senior courses, teachers, and studies I might as well enjoy myself for a while. I am just a honor student who is passing time until college, (with parties I must add.)

I am at the time classified as a journalist because of my editorship of a sports page of my school paper. Not that I understand sports like my journalism class, or particularly enjoy writing the page myself (which is what I do) but I am editor anyway. I am afraid that I one of those History-minded people who you refer to, I think that I have a natural ability for the subject. I enjoy writing and when I get into the mood I can come out with some interesting things. (However my spelling is terrible and so I beg you to forgive my mistakes).

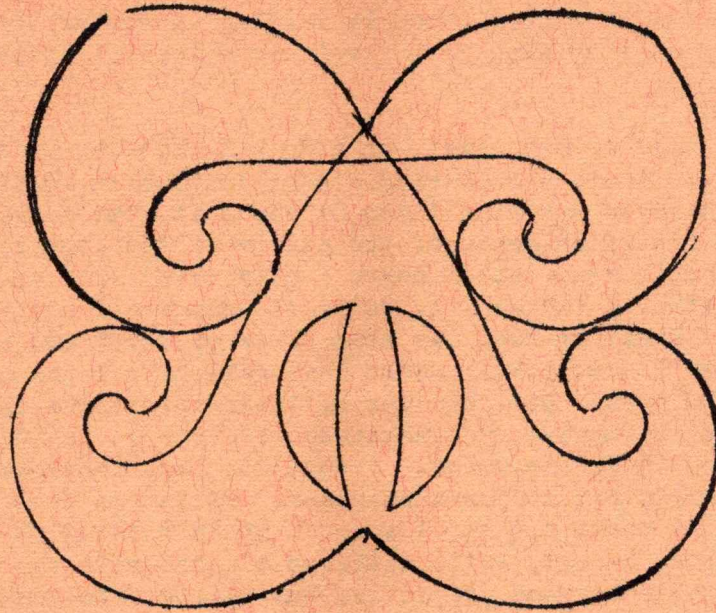
I will tell you now, however, that I am riding myself of my SF books (because of my future college aims, I don't want to get tied down to it) but I certainly haven't forsaken SF. I plan to keep as close to it as I can. I can't really criticize your Fanize because of my inexperience with such but my tastes run to more discussion and less reviews, maybe I would get more out of it if I knew more of the people and events being referred to.

As the more ambitious of two other rather intelligent fellows who (they haven't met yet) both have come up with rather interesting things in the past (Storywise and the like, yet both are not uninformed and are, like I am now, readers of SF) I have appointed myself a outlet for what materials I can glean from them. If you like I could supply address, you might get subscribers. As for myself, my funds are very limited and will not be able (unless really necessary) to supply ready cash for any future copies. I can send you issues of this school paper of mine, although I can't think of anyone in their right minds wanting that mess. I can supply interesting letters (I Hope) and so would like very much to see more of Fandom. In fact I look forward to it. (Could you explain NFFF & N'APA? These have me wondering.)

Sincerely Yours, /s/ Clyde Kuhn



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On March 10 the voters in the City of Seattle will decide whether or not to adopt an enforced "housing ordinance" to make it illegal to refuse to rent, sell or show for sale housing to any person for reason of discrimination against race or religion. Personally, I intend to vote against it (whether or not the majority of voters feel as I do will be known by the time you read this.) I shall vote against it not because I begrudge decent living accommodations to negroes, but because I feel this is not a proper type of legislation. It will not give negroes any "legal" rights they do not already have, it will merely take from all citizens some of the rights they are entitled to. Two "wrongs" do not make a "right". There is not currently any legislation here in Seattle preventing negroes from equality, therefore there can be no legislation granting it. No, the only thing such legislation could do, would be to deny some white people their "right" to live and dispose of property as they see fit, in order to create injustice equal to the injustice suffered by negroes.

This does not deny the fact that there is gross violation of civic enjoyment of full participation as citizens on the part of negroes. The prejudices and attitudes of many white people are apparently just as effective as laws in preventing negro participation as citizens. But these attitudes and prejudices have nothing at all to do with laws or ordinances, therefore laws and ordinances can be piled sky high and it will do no good against them. Laws will merely add chaos and injustice toward a wider scope of citizenry. But what is the answer? As Phil Kohn asked, "...what DO you mean by 'I wish the Govt would stay out of the mess and let people find their own level'?"

I mean just this: Negroes are fighting (at least here in Seattle) NOT laws and ordinances, but ignorance and prejudice. They are fighting not only the ignorance and prejudice of those white people who genuinely regard negroes as inferior and believe they should be pushed off in a corner somewhere and ignored as much as possible, but they also fight: the ignorance and apathy of people of both races who accept this attitude and are willing to put up with it. So far they have, in my opinion, done a good job of going about their battle against unreasoning prejudice. They have utilized the only effective weapons: publicity and reason. Peaceful 'sitdowns'; non-violent parades, civic "demonstrations", etc. let their cause be known and stir up sympathy -- and respect -- for their cause. In short, by behaving like self-respecting citizens determined on taking their full measure of civic status, by that very act they are beginning to achieve it.

Do not underestimate the inherent decency of the American people. Once they become aware that an injustice exists; that there is a situation that SHOULD be changed and that CAN be changed, the tenor of public opinion will swing around and change it. But this will not be accomplished by forcing unpopular legislation on an unwilling public. It can only be done by voluntary re-evaluation on the part of each citizen himself.

For instance, take my own case: as a decent white citizen of good will, I quite genuinely didn't know there was housing discrimination in Seattle. Well, now I know it. I don't see there is anything I can DO about it, but at least I am aware that injustice exists. I also am aware of the nature of the injustice and its source... If the time ever should come that a negro family moved into my neighborhood, I most probably wouldn't like it (after all, we can't change our entire thinking habits overnight) but I'm not likely to feel the same sense of shock and outrage; of sheer panic and resentment, that I most likely would have felt before the negroes brought this problem out into the open. Now, because of their insistence on their own human dignity, I can at least recognize my uneasiness for what it would be: selfishness, lest I lose a buck or two in resale value. Prejudice, that makes me think I would lose money by having a negro family for a neighbor. As far as I'm concerned, they've made their point... If it works for me, I suspect it is working that same way with the vast majority of other decent, white citizens of good will who have never committed themselves specifically to race prejudice, but merely have gone along with public opinion.

Sure, the negroes have a fight on their hands. And it is THEIR fight because it concerns THEIR self-respect as citizens. But no laws or ordinances could possibly be voted into the books that can give them self-respect and civic stature. The only thing the Law can do is remove any legal barriers which might be in their way.

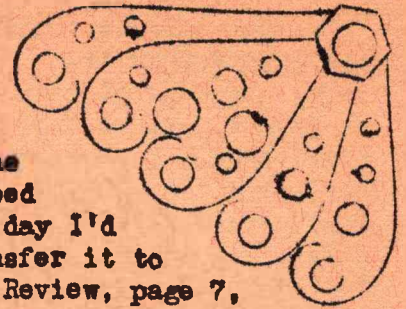
One hundred years ago the Law -- in the Emancipation Proclamation -- did give them freedom and status as citizens of these United States. But it has taken them a century to realize that giving is one thing, and accepting is something else again... All these years the gift has lain there, waiting for the negroes themselves to pick it up and USE it. It's about time they did, isn't it?

Re: THE ACLU. It is now illegal in the State of Washington to call the American Civil Liberties Union a "Communist Front". A jury in Okanogan, Washington, awarded damages in the Goldmark slander trial because someone said so. It is all right to point out that the ACLU specializes in defending accused Communists -- that can be proved in Court. And it is all right to point out that the ACLU doesn't appear much interested in any type of Civil Liberties except those centered around Communists -- because that, too, can be proved in Court. But it is illegal to add them up and make anything out of it. Probably because in Law - as in Mathematics - no one has yet figured out a way to PROVE that one and one equals two.

Re: THE "BEATLES"... Well, every little town and county in the USA has now had a chance to examine the recent British export in the field of entertainment... Thanks (?) to Ed Sullivan's show, we've all had a sample. Personally, I found the audience more interesting -- watching all those teenage girls gasp and wriggle reminded me again of the interesting discovery during my U Psychology: it was the FEMALE rats that would cross the barrier to get to the male. Good Old Mother Nature must have known what she was doing -- even if nobody else can figure it out! As to the Beatles themselves, I guess it must be the hairdo that does it... Aside from the wiglike locks, they didn't have anything Elvis didn't better. (But then, Elvis isn't around any more, and the Beatles are -- and the poor girls have to scream at something. Myself, I still thrill when Bing sings..so?)



Re: GEMZINE'S "ARTWORK" -- The cover illo thish came to me originally on the back of a letter from Pat (Scott) McLean. I doubt if she ever expected to see it grace the cover of GZ -- I gather the impression it was a doodle on a piece of graph paper which she picked up (possibly out of the wastebasket) to write her note on... But, chronically strapped for Artwork as I am, I glommed onto it and saved it for the day I'd have a steady enough hand (and the patience) to try and transfer it to stencil. Thanks, Pat. The illo at the end of the CS Lewis Review, page 7, came from Alma Hill. I put it there because it seemed to me so rendolent of Asian... At least, her original drawing did. But all the rest of the decorations came strictly from GMC, and let me tell you it is a sad comedown for GZ that I have to do my own interior illos after such artists as Bergeron, Dick Schultz, Joni Cornell and the others who have contributed their talents in the past...



But what has happened to our budding artists? I hear talk that neofans are complaining for lack of appreciation, of difficulty in finding publishers -- but it has been a long, long time since I've received an envelope full of doodles in the mail, which some aspiring young artist sent hopefully in case I could use any. Newcomers to fandom no longer seem to leap joyfully to the chance of seeing their squiggles and scrawls published in fanzines, or respond by return mail to the letters of inquiry I send them when I see "Interested in Art" marked after their name on the New-Member lists. As for the MessBoo -- for all I know, it must be dead and buried with a tombstone marked "Owen Hannifen" over its grave.

What has happened? Is it just me, or IS there a dearth of fanzine artists lately? And while I'm on the subject of fan art, I would like to make one more protest against a gross injustice that has been perpetrated against the N'APA members. I refer to the by-law which was recently passed for the sole purpose of forcing Jack Harness out of N'APA by making it impossible for him to retain his membership activity via donating cover illos to other members' fanzines. In the first place, I think this was a mean and nasty abuse of power to vote in a law just to harm an unpopular member. Secondly, I think it was short-sighted in its effect on N'APA. We need fanart... Jack Harness (even though he may have been abusing his privileges) is not the only fan artist who has maintained his membership with artwork in apas. (For that matter, Jack's covers were a heck of a lot better than his comments and if he had to save his membership with something, I'd much prefer his covers..) I can recall many "Art Portfolios" in both SAPS and FAPA from fans who found it easier to draw than write. I think the ruling that at least 4 of the 6 pages be "written matter" is a bad one, and should be rescinded. Even though it is too late to prevent the injustice to Jack Harness, it is not too late to prevent it from happening again -- in case we were ever lucky enough to get another fan member who'd rather draw than argue!

Re: SALLY BETHEA -- If I was surprised to find in this country a replica of Old Britain's "Stonehenge" (as I was, see GZ 4/38) you can bet I was even more surprised when I discovered we also have in this country another of those Victorian Classics: the typical Domineering Father vs Repressed Daughter, a la Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Way out in the hinterlands of the mid-Eastern USA, in the small town of Neosho, Missouri. Elizabeth Barrett escaped from her father's domination via an elopement with the poet Robert Browning, but so far as I know, no one has yet rescued Sally Bethea. Bob Wolfenbarger's tentative gesture in that direction resulted in the publication of one of Sally's poems in GZ -- followed by one of the most extraordinary displays of boorishness on the part of her father that anyone could imagine in this day and age!

According to Bill, Sally Bethea is a 20 year old college student, sensitive, timid, and very much under her father's thumb. Bill admired her poetry and offered to try and get it published in a fanzine, to which she diffidently consented -- unbeknown to her father. By the time it reached publication, Sally had gone off to school at a college somewhere in Ohio.

When Sally's contributor's copy arrived -- in an envelope, addressed to Sally -- her father read it. He spotted his daughter's little poem and exploded with rage. Instead of asking Sally about it, he rushed down to his lawyer and demanded an investigation. The lawyer (with the improbable name of 'Phil Graves') obediently dispatched a letter of inquiry, but all he got back by way of reply from GMC was (I confess it) a rather snippy note that if Sally wanted to know how I got her poem, Sally could write and ask.. Actually, I figured anybody with that name must be kidding.. It sounded like the name one would think up for one of Dick Tracy's doctors... But, just in case Bill hadn't mentioned to Sally just who was publishing for her, I sent her a copy of my reply to her (supposedly) officious friend and told her Bill W. had sent it to me. Apparently Sally never received my letter. Her father must have intercepted it, again exploded with rage and got into the act himself.

According to Bill, he cornered Wolfenbarger in the town's only newsstand, demanding to know "What is this GEMZINE?" Bill, taken unaware, surprisedly tried to explain fanzines and fandom, but, as he put it, "..in a situation like that when the guy is all but breathing down your neck, I tend to get jittery and confused and staunch-and-stammer.." (as who wouldn't?) so Mr. Bethea evidently thought he'd lower the boom on GMC. But, alas for Dear Papa, GMC hasn't been one of Fandom's top feuders for all these many years for nothing... So Dear Papa got more than he expected!

All in all, it was a most amusing episode and I enjoyed it immensely. (The lawyer bowed out gracefully early in the game, with an amused "You're quite a gal.") but Dear Papa and I went a couple of rounds which ended with my parting shot (on a post-card, yet!!!) wherein I informed Dear Papa "..as far as I'm concerned, you don't enter into this picture at all. If Sally wants to try her literary wings in my little publication, that's her business, not yours!"

To date, I still don't know if Sally ever saw her contributor's copy with her poem published in it. At any rate, she's never acknowledged it.. As far as Bill knows, she may have been away at college and not known anything about it. But if anyone wants to write and congratulate her on it, the address is:

Miss Sally Bethea, 412 South Hamilton Street, Neosho, Missouri. 64850.

A FAN PASSES AWAY - BILL WOLFENDARGER

"THIS IS WHAT I MEANT TO SHOW YOU," SAYS JOE PFAN. "YOU'VE SEEN HIS FANZINE COLLECTION, BUT RIGHT THERE IN THAT CARDBOARD BOX IS THE REASON I BROUGHT YOU HERE. GO AHEAD," HE INSTRUCTED, POINTING, "OPEN IT UP."

THE FAN DID SO. HIS PROPELLOR BEANIE SLIPPED AS HE RATTLED THROUGH THE CONTENTS.

"IT'S HIS FIVE ISSUES OF MARGOLEANE, JOE. AND A BUNCH OF ASSORTED ONES AT THE BOTTOM."

"TRUE," SAID JOE PFAN WITH A TWINGE OF DIGNIFIED PROFUNDITY. "BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY MR. RALPH JACKSON BYRD COLLECTED ALL THESE CERTAIN, SPECIAL FANZINES HERE?"

"OF COURSE NOT." (HIS PROPELLOR BEANIE SLIPPED AGAIN.)

"YOU SEE..." JOE BEGAN, BUT COULD NOT FINISH. THEN: "BECAUSE THIS IS HIS GRAVE! BECAUSE THIS BOX CONTAINS EVERY DIT OF HIS FANNISH WORKS, HIS FANNISH THOUGHTS; EVERYTHING FROM ARTICLES AND FICTION AND POETRY TO LOC'S AND SIMPLE MENTIONS. AND WITHOUT THESE FANZINES, YOU SEE, FANDOM WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN A FAN SUCH AS RALPH JACKSON BYRD HAD EVER EXISTED."

THE YOUNG FAN STARED AT THE BOX. "I'VE READ SOME OF HIS STUFF. IT WASN'T SO EXTRA-SPECIAL."

JOE PFAN WAS HORRIFIED. HIS FACE WAS A HOLLOW MASK OF HORROR AND DISBELIEF.

"BUT MY GOD," HE SAID; "HE WAS MY FRIEND AND HE WAS A FAN!!"

THE END