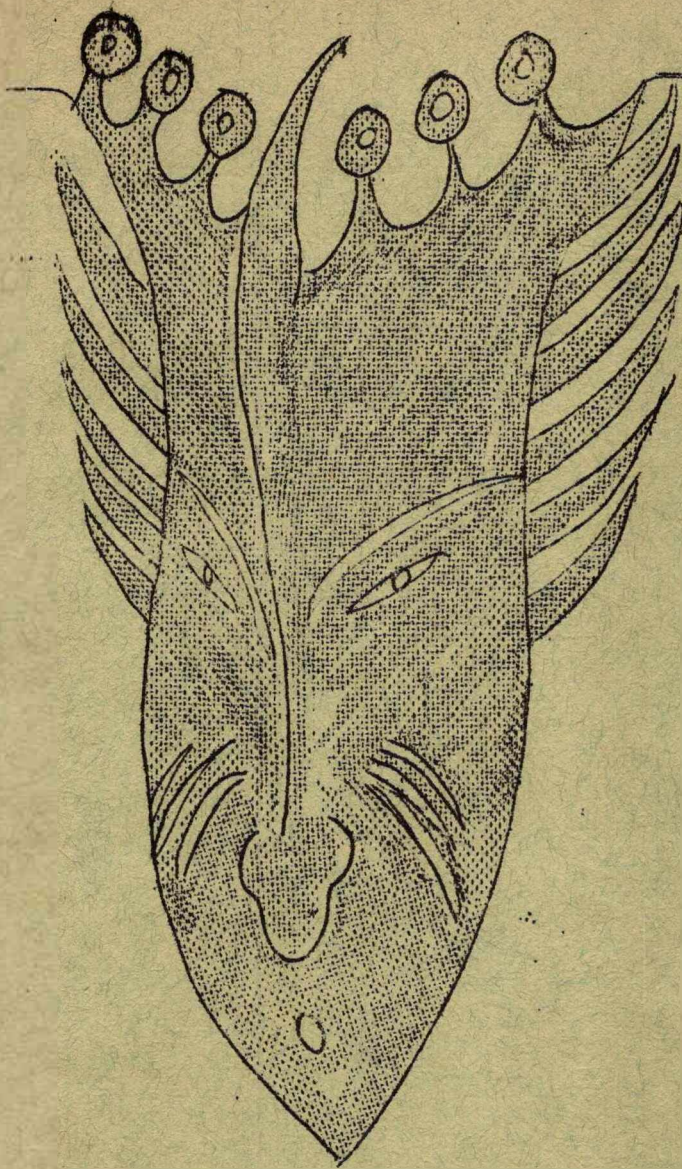


(COVER ILLU, ENTITLED "PROGRESS?" BY JUDY GLAD, COURTESY NFFF MANUSCRIPT BU.)

BAITBOX



have

As you must undoubtedly/noticed, GZ is now a N'APAZINE. After all these years, GMC is no longer in FAPA. Although I knew nothing of it at the time, Ron Ellik's announcement in FANAC to that effect, must have been Orders from Headquarters, because (although I had in the meantime taken care of my pending balance plus an additional years dues) 3 days after it came out Evans wrote me that he "had no alternative" but send my money back and declare me "delinquent in dues"!!! When I wrote and asked how this could possibly be, inasmuch as I had paid duplicate dues ~~the~~ previous year and the money had been in the treasury ever since January, 1960, the entire FAPA Officialdom (excluding MZB who had no say in the matter) went into a huddle. Out of this dither, Evans, Economou and Eney (egged on by Ellik) managed a truly Orwellian rewrite of FAPA history -- shattering FAPA custom, tradition and precedent like clay pigeons at a skeet shoot -- and came up with: (A) FAPA does not now and never did have any provision for prepayment of dues, or (B) if they did, it was only because the Treasurer allowed it, and (C) Anyway, Ellik had warned me.

Well, that latter part is undoubtedly true. When I paid duplicate dues in Jan. 1960, Ellik DID send me a postcard informing me that although the dues were \$2 per year at the moment, they would go up to \$3

the following August and I had better get that additional dollar in before the November deadline if I expected to remain in FAPA. It certainly sounded enough like a warning that I suppose I should have paid some attention to it, but I didn't. Always before, there had been membership continuity enough to carry over the gap between the \$2 on hand and the \$1 owing. However, it appears that I underestimated the lengths to which the Calkinism* faction in FAPA was willing to go in order to get me out of their hair. So here I am, in N'APA instead. (Chortle... Little did I dream when I was grotching about too many females in FAPA -- see Unasked Opinion -- that they would start their housecleaning by eliminating me!)

*"CALKINISM," as defined by Kent Corey (see Unasked Opinion) is "...the philosophy that the end justifies the means."

Re FDR VS PEARL HARBOR: I have mentioned more than once the opinion that this nation was forced into WWII deliberately by FDR as a political maneuver, and I have also been lambasted verbally by readers who refused to accept it. Well, at last I have run across a compilation of publications on this subject, and for the benefit of those of my readers who refused to take my word that there was grounds for this idea, I will list a source that they can look up and read for themselves what happened! Listed in their approximate order of appearance, I give you:

- "The Truth About Pearl Harbor" (Pamphlet, 1944)
 "Pearl Harbor" George Morgenstern (Devin-Adair, 1947)
 "Pres. Roosevelt & the Coming War, 1941" Dr. Chas. A. Beard (Yale Univ. Press, '44)
 "The Roosevelt Myth" John T. Flynn (Devin-Adair, 1948)
 "America's Second Crusade" William Henry Chamberlin (Regnery, 1950)
 "Journey to the Missouri" Tochikazu Kase (Yale, 1950)
 "Back Door To War" Dr. C.C. Tansill (Regnery, 1951)
 "Design for War" Frederic R. Sanborn (Devin-Adair, 1951)
 "Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace" Dr. H. E. Barnes (Caxton Printers, 1953)
 "The Final Secret of Pearl Harbor" Rear Adm. R.A.Theobald (Devin-Adair, 1954)
 "The Day of Infamy" Walter Lord (Holt, 1957)
 "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" Shirer
 Chapter "Espionage Limited" of "The FBI Story" Whitehead, (Random House, 1957)
 "Wedemeyer Reports" Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer (Holt, 1958)
 "Roosevelt's Road to Russia" George N. Crocker (Regnery, 1959)

Re FACT IS STRANGER THAN FICTION. The newspapers lately have been full of the story of the hijacking of the Portuguese liner SANTA MARIA. As the details trickle out, it reads like one of the good old swashbuckling tales of derring-do and high intrigue we used to get when the world was younger... a flavor reminiscent of Raphael Sabatini, Delaupassant and Manning Coles.... With nations now at Atoms-length from war with each other, and racing madly for a first satellite-hold on the moon, it is almost refreshing to read something as dashing and adventurous as a captured passenger vessel and a kidnapped crew. I almost expected the principals to break out into arias.

But, speaking of newspapers, as I look through my box of clippings, I find a surprising number refer to anachronisms... For instance, here's one dated the Sunday after the Rose Bowl Game, re a Univ. Prof's wife who.. well, I'll let you read it: "There was a bit of voodooism being practiced on behalf of the University of Washington Huskies during the Rose Bowl game. Putting the witchcraft to use as she sat before a television set Monday afternoon, was Mrs. John E. Anderson, an ardent football fan and also a very proper professor of English at the U.W. Prof. Sylvia Anderson is no authority on voodooism. In fact, she never had anything to do with it before. Here is how it came about.. In the mail..Mrs. Anderson received a package containing a letter, signed only "A Friend", with a 5" voodoo doll dressed in a Minnesota Gopher uniform and bearing the number 61 and a tag which read, 'A Fox on Minnesota'. Also in the box was a packet of 'Black Magic Mix' powder and a booklet of instructions... Mrs. Anderson admits she had the doll with her as she watched the game and, after Minnesota had scored, she began sticking pins in the doll in the very best voodoo manner." (Maybe it IS "Later-Than-You-Think...")

Here's an interesting juxtaposition of clippings -- an editorial on the moral values involved in Reckless Driving, wherein the writer (a Catholic) expressed the opinion that contemptuous violation of traffic regulations are sins before God as well as offenses punishable by state law. Next to it, a paragraph taken from the back pages of a different newspaper of the same date, mentioning briefly that a 19-yr old driver who failed to yield right-of-way killed a couple in the other car. He was sentenced to 5 days in jail and a \$50 fine. Looks like another example of the futility of expecting the State to substitute for an individual's Conscience. Not only that, Manslaughter is getting cheaper by the minute! Now the penalty for bagging a first-rate Landscape Architect and mate is only 5 days and a \$50 fine! (I wonder if God will let him off so easy?)

Incidentally, there is an indication that Pedestrians are beginning to fight back.. Yesterday's newspapers were full of the news that a pedestrian pulled out a gun and shot the driver who ran him down in a crosswalk... Well, end of page. Time presses, so I think I'll postpone the other 4 pages of yakking. This is oversize anyway, with TWO Mailing Comments. (Incidentally, I admit -- somewhat sheepishly -- I couldn't make it stick... I renewed my sub of Mag of F&SF after all...) 'By now.



AS I SEEMED

COMMENT ON H.P.A. #16. 7

CONCLUDE #3 - MESKYS. THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST MAG IN THE MAILING. EXCELLENT REPRO, NEAT FORMAT, AMPLY ILLUSTRATED, WITH A NICE SELECTION OF MATERIAL (INCLUDING A GOOD LETTERCOL. I AM PLEASED TO NOTE FROM JERRY PAGE'S LETTER AT LEAST ONE OTHER FAN LIKES JAMES BRANCH CABELL'S WRITING.) THE MATERIAL IS MUCH BETTER THAN MY REVIEW MIGHT INDICATE, BUT EVEN BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN (AS MENTIONED IN THE LEAD ARTICLE) RICHARD FRAHM, WALLY WEBER AND I TYPED ABOUT A QUIRE OF STENOGRAPHS FOR HARRY MOORE FOR THE FIRST IMMORTAL STORM, I HAD A HECK OF A TIME TRYING TO MAKE ANYTHING OUT OF WHAT I WAS TYPING. LATER, WHEN I GOT MY COPY OF THE COMPLETED WORK, I STILL COULD NOT GET MUCH OUT OF IT. NOT THAT IT WAS ILLEGIBLE, NO, THE REPRO WAS FINE. IT WAS JUST THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER WAS SO CONFUSED AND FULL OF UNIDENTIFIED NAME-DROPPINGS, AND EXPRESSED IN SUCH MULTI-SYLLABIC LANGUAGE, THAT I COULD

NOT FIND SUFFICIENT MOTIVATION FOR PLOWING THROUGH IT. I SUSPECT, IF ANYONE SHOULD RUN A FOG INDEX ON IT, THE READING LEVEL IS PROBABLY ON A PH.D; PHI BETA KAPPA; SUMMA CUM LAUDE LEVEL... IF SOMEONE HAD THE PATIENCE TO TRANSLATE THE BOOK INTO A NICE, EASY READING LEVEL OF 8 OR 9, HE WOULD BE DOING FANDOM A BIG FAVOR BY LETTING US KNOW WHAT WAS IN IT. BUT THIS ARTICLE OF JERRY'S CERTAINLY DOES NOT... IT SHARES ALL THE TURGIDITY OF STYLE OF THE BOOK IT ANALYZES. ON THE OTHER HAND, ARMSTRONG'S DETAILED PROZINE REVIEW PRESENTED A CURIOUSLY VAGUE PICTURE, TOO, BUT FOR ANOTHER REASON. NO DOUBT IT WAS JUST AN OVERSIGHT, BUT HE FORGOT TO MENTION THE DATE OF THE MAGS HE REVIEWED, JUST THE MONTH. BUT I FOUND IT AN EXCEEDINGLY WEIRD EFFECT -- AS THOUGH I WERE AFLOAT IN TIME, WANDERING FROM YEAR TO YEAR, WONDERING JUST WHICH OF ALL THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MAGS IN MY COLLECTION HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.... IT WAS ALMOST AN ANTICLIMAX WHEN HE DID FINALLY SPECIFY THE DATE OF HIS FINAL REVIEW, IE, MAY 1960 ASTOUNDING.

SEVEN EYES OF NINGAUBLE -- LARRY ANDERSON. THE COMMENTS ABOUT MARK TWAIN ARE INTERESTING AND WELL PRESENTED, BUT TO ME THE MOST FASCINATING ITEM IN THIS MAG WAS "PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS UPON A GHOST TOWN". FOR SOME UNKNOWN (TO ME REASON, I FIND THE IDEA OF A GHOST TOWN -- AN EMPTY CITY, A DESERTED VILLAGE -- GLAMOUROUS. THOSE OCCASIONAL WESTERNS WHICH HAVE AS THEIR LOCALE SOME ABANDONED LEFTOVER FROM THE GOLD RUSH DAYS, USUALLY FIND ME SPENDING MORE TIME WATCHING THE BACKGROUND PROPS THAN THE ACTION GOING ON IN FRONT OF THEM. BUT I SUSPECT ONE REASON FOR THIS FASCINATION IS MY CURIOSITY AS TO WHY THESE HABITABLE DWELLINGS CONTINUE TO REMAIN UNINHABITED.. WHY IT IS THAT IN A CIVILIZATION LIKE OURS, WHERE THERE ARE TEEMING SLUMS IN EVERY CITY WHEREIN ARE CROWDED TENEMENTS AND OVERFLOWING ALLEYS, WHY SHOULD ALL THIS HOUSING GO TO WASTE? I AM INTRIGUED BY THE IDEA OF SO MUCH INVESTED CAPITAL LYING USELESS AND UNPROFITABLE, WHEN THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO COULD BE LIVING IN IT, WHO COULD BE USING IT AT EVEN SOME MINIMUM OF RETURN, AND IN SO DOING, NOT ONLY JUSTIFY ITS EXISTENCE, BUT ALSO RELIEVE THEIR OWN CONGESTED LIVING SPACE.. IT JUST DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO ME THAT ALL THESE HOUSES -- EVEN WHOLE TOWNS -- SHOULD BE VACANT AND DESERTED, WHEN JUST ABOUT ANY CITY SLUM COULD PROVIDE A WHOLE POPULATION WITHOUT EVEN NOTICING THEY WERE GONE! I SUPPOSE THE ANSWER IS THE SAME OLD HUMAN ANSWER -- STUPIDITY, GREED, AND SHIFTLESSNESS. THE SHIFTLESSNESS OF THE SLUM DWELLERS WHO WOULD RATHER CROWD THEMSELVES INTO AN ALREADY OVER-CROWDED ROOM WITH 3 OTHER FAMILIES, THAN MAKE THE EFFORT TO REACH OUT FOR THE ROOM AND THE CLEAN EARTH AND SKY THAT IS OUT THERE JUST WAITING FOR THEM. THEY ARE TOO STUPID TO THINK BEYOND THEIR OWN PETTY ENVIRONMENT; TOO DULL AND UNIMAGINATIVE TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH THE OWNERS OF THIS UNUSEFUL PROPERTY TO THEIR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE -- AND TOO GREEDY TO THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE THAN "LET THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDE FOR US!" BAH! NO WONDER THIS COUNTRY IS RUSHING TOWARD SOCIALISM ON A ONE-WAY TICKET!

APE #2; RED CUBE; HELP! -- RON HAYDOCK. I CHORTLE OVER YOUR PROPOSALS FOR ASS AND TAAF, BUT WE'VE GOT TROUBLES ENOUGH OF OUR OWN OVER HERE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT IMPORTING MORE FROM AFRICA. THE APES CAN JUST TAKE THEIR OWN CHANCES AND RUN FOR THE HILLS -- WHICH IS MORE THAN MANY OF THE HUMANS WERE ABLE TO DO. (THOUGH NOW THAT SOMEONE FINALLY GOT AROUND TO ELIMINATING LUMUMBA, MAYBE THINGS WILL EASE UP A BIT.) NICE PRESENTATION OF BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY BUT IT SPARKS NO RESPONSE FROM ME. MANY, MANY DECADES AGO -- PROBABLY LONG BEFORE YOU WERE BORN -- I WAS A TARZAN OF THE APES AFFICIONADO. I READ ALL THE BOOKS (COULDN'T AFFORD TO COLLECT THEM, THEY DIDN'T HAVE PBS IN THOSE DAYS) AND EVEN WENT TO THE EXTENT OF CUTTING OUT THE DAILY NEWSPAPER INSTALLMENTS OF "TARZAN AND THE JEWELS OF OPAR" IN THE HOPES OF HAVING MY VERY OWN COPY OF IT. I CAREFULLY PASTED EACH INSTALLMENT IN AN OLD PULPZINE AND TRIUMPHANTLY RE-READ IT ALL AT ONE SITTING. GOOD THING THAT I DID, TOO, BECAUSE A BOSOM FRIEND OF MINE WANTED TO BORROW IT -- AND I NEVER SAW IT AGAIN! I WAS SO CRUSHED BY THIS CALLOUS PERFDY THAT I LOST MY INTEREST IN TARZAN, INCLUDING ANY AND ALL OF THE MYRIAD IMITATIONS THAT HAVE SPRUNG UP IN HIS WAKE. BUT IF YOU EVER WANT TO START A SOCIETY FOR THE ABOLITION OF BORROWERS WHO FAIL TO RETURN BOOKS, I'LL BE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY. GRRR... (SORRY TO IGNORE YOUR PLEA FOR HELPI, BUT IF I GOT TO LISTING ALL THE HUNDREDS OFFANZNES PAST AND PRESENT, IT WOULD BE MORE THAN I COULD HANDLE. RE YOUR QUERY, "ARE YOU REALLY AS MEAN AND FIERCE AND CRUEL AND ARGUMENTIVE AS THEY SAY?" -- I DUNNO, I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO JUDGE THAT FOR YOURSELF. WHAT DO YOU THINK?)

SONOMA #3 -- NORM METCALF. THESE MAILING COMMENTS WERE PRACTICALLY UNINTELLIGIBLE BECAUSE OF LACK OF REFERENCE... THAT'S A FREQUENT FAILING AMONG PERSONS UNFAMILIAR WITH APAS AND THE PUNCTILITIES OF MAILING COMMENTS, BUT FOR A PERSON WHO LISTS HIMSELF AS ONE OF THOSE WHO "JUST LIKE TO JOIN APAS" IT SEEMS RATHER ODD. THE ONLY ADEQUATE REVIEW WAS ON QUOTH THE WALRUS, WHICH DID REFER VERBATIM TO THE MATERIAL BEING REVIEWED. (NOT THAT I AGREE WITH THE IDEAS EXPRESSED.) IN FACT, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT NORM IS DOING JUST WHAT HE ACCUSES HOLLAND OF HAVING DONE, IE, "NO ONE CAN REFUTE YOU UNTIL THEY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT" -- AND THEY CAN'T AGREE WITH YOU, EITHER, UNLESS THEY CAN HAVE SOME IDEA WHAT IT IS YOU ARE TRYING TO SAY.

CRITIQUE #1 (POSTMAILED) - BRUCE HENSTELL. THERE'S ONE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF POSTMAILINGS WHICH NOBODY HAS MENTIONED SO FAR (THOUGH I GRANT YOU IT ISN'T MUCH) AND THAT IS, THAT IT GIVES THE EDITOR A CHANCE TO USE A STAMP. THIS ONE HAS A BOOKER T. WASHINGTON CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE ON IT, AND I AM GLAD TO GET IT. SOMETIMES AN OTHERWISE WORTHLESS FANZINE BECOMES QUITE VALUABLE BECAUSE OF THE STAMP ON IT. NOT THAT BRUCE'S FANZINE COULD BE CONSIDERED WORTHLESS, BY ANY MEANS. BRUCE MAKES ONE VERY PENETRATING COMMENT ABOUT THE NEVER-ENDING CONTROVERSY AS TO "THE TROUBLE WITH N3F". HE POINTS OUT, "...CERTAIN TYPES OF SCIENCE FICTION FANS ARE MEMBERS. THEY ARE CONSIDERED 'FUGHEADS' TO CERTAIN (OTHER) FANS WHO ARE MOST LIKELY VERY ACTIVE TYPES... (THE OTHER TYPES) USE N'APA SPACE FOR ..THINGS THAT JUST DO NOT APPEAL" TO THE OTHER FANS. ACTUALLY, THIS (SLIGHTLY PARAPHRASED) OBSERVATION EXPRESSES THE "TROUBLE" IN A NUTSHELL! ACTUALLY, THERE IS NOTHING AT ALL "WRONG" WITH N3F AS FAR AS N3F IS CONCERNED. THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP OF N3F LIKES IT THE WAY IT IS, AND FOR GOOD REASON. IT IS ONLY THE SO-CALLED "TRUEFANNISH" FAN WHO GRIPES AND COMPLAINS BECAUSE N3F DOES NOT FIT INTO HIS OWN PATTERN OF FAN-CONFORMITY. FANS WHO SUPPOSE THAT STF IS THE ONLY TOPIC FOR FANNISH DISCUSSION, COMPLAIN WHEN NON-STFISH SUBJECTS ARE MENTIONED; FANS WHO SUPPOSE THAT THE ONLY OBJECT OF WRITING IS TO PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR FANZINES, GRIPE WHEN N3F MEMBERS WRITE MERELY TO CORRESPOND WITH THEIR FRIENDS. ACTUALLY, N3F COVERS A VAST FIELD OF INTEREST -- A WIDE SCOPE OF FANNISH ACTIVITY OF WHICH THE SO-CALLED "TRUEFANNISH" ACTIVITIES, I.E. FANZINE PUBLISHING, CONVENTIONS, PRO-MAG & FAN-MAG REVIEWS, FANNISH "IN-GROUP" GOSSIP ABOUT THE VARIOUS "FOCAL POINTS", ETC., -- IS MERELY A FRACTION. BUT IT IS THIS VAST AREA OF INTEREST WHICH DRIVES THE SELF-STYLED "TRUEFANS" INTO A TIZZY OF GRIPING AT N3F, BECAUSE ALTHOUGH N3F IS WILLING TO TOLERATE THE "TRUEFANS" AND RESPECT THEIR FANACTIVITIES, THE SO-CALLED "TRUEFANS" ARE COMPLETELY INTOLERANT OF ANYTHING EXCEPT THEIR OWN IN-GROUP GOSSIPING AND THEIR OWN FOCAL-POINT AMPUBBING. THIS LATTER TYPE OF FAN MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND AND/OR APPRECIATE THE FANAC OF THE OTHER. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THEY DO MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT THEY CAN TO CENSOR THE INTERESTS OF THE OTHER GROUP. AS BRUCE SO APTLY NOTICED, IF THE NEFFERS ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS ANYTHING AT ALL IN N'APA EXCEPT THIS SAME OLD 'IN-GROUP' CHATTER OF THE NON-NEFFER 'FOCAL-POINTS', THEY WILL DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO STOP IT. CASE IN POINT: NOTICE HOW THEY JUMP ON RACY HIGGS BECAUSE HE TALKS ABOUT WHAT HE IS INTERESTED IN, RATHER THAN WHAT THEY THINK HE SHOULD... SAME WAY WITH COSLET -- THEY'VE DONE IT FOR YEARS TO HIM. SAME WAY WITH GMC. AS BRUCE OBSERVED, THERE ARE "CERTAIN TYPES" WHO ABSOLUTELY CANNOT TOLERATE ANY INTERESTS EXCEPT THEIR OWN, WHETHER IN N3F OR OUT OF IT. AND, STRANGELY ENOUGH, IT IS USUALLY THESE SAME FANS WHO SCREAM MOST LOUDLY AGAINST "CENSORSHIP"....

BNF SPECIAL - JACK HARNESS. INASMUCH AS HE RAN UNOPPOSED FOR OE, I SUPPOSE JACK IS OUR NEXT N'APA MAILER. IF HE STICKS TO THE PLATFORM HE PUBLISHED, HE'LL PROBABLY DO ALL RIGHT. (ESPECIALLY IF HE STICKS TO THE PROMISE "...PAPER THAT WON'T GRUBE HAVOC, RAW RAGING HAVOC, WITH YOUR EYEBALLS".) JACK HAS TOUCHED ON ONE RIDICULOUS ASPECT OF THE N3F WELCOMITTEE -- I REFER TO THE RATHER REGRETTABLE PRACTICE OF ASSIGNING THE VERY NEWEST MEMBERS AS "WELCOMERS". ABOUT THE ONLY THING THEY HAVE TO OFFER IN THEIR "WELCOME LETTERS" IS THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC FRIENDSHIP -- CERTAINLY, MOST OF THEM HAVE NOT BEEN IN THE CLUB LONG ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO TELL THESE INCOMING RECRUITS MUCH ABOUT IT. AND, AS JACK POINTS OUT, WHEN AN OLD-TIMER RENEWS HIS LAPSED MEMBERSHIP AFTER A FEW YEARS, THESE NAIVE GREETERS DO MAKE A PECULIAR IMPACT, TO SAY THE LEAST. HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY FAIR TO POINT OUT THAT THIS SITUATION HAS COME ABOUT FROM A TWO-FOLD CAUSE: FIRST, THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO GET THE ENTHUSIASTIC NEW MEMBERS ORIENTED INTO WHAT THE CLUB DOES HAVE TO OFFER, BY TRYING TO EXPLAIN IT TO MEMBERS EVEN NEWER THAN THEMSELVES, AND ALSO FROM THE FACT THAT BY THE TIME A MEMBER HAS BEEN IN IT LONG ENOUGH TO BE THOROLY ACQUAINTED WITH ALL THE INS-AND-OUTS OF FANDOM, HE/SHE HAS USUALLY BECOME SO INVOLVED IN THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES THEY NO LONGER HAVE EITHER THE TIME OR ENTHUSIASM FOR WELCOMES. ACTUALLY, ALTHOUGH IT DOES HAVE ITS OCCASIONAL LUDICROUS MOMENTS, THIS ISN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL.

NEBULOUS #1 - HARRELL/HAMLIN. WELL, THE COLOR ON THE COVER DID TURN OUT NICE AND DISTINCT. USUALLY THAT DEEP A TINT IS ACHIEVED ONLY BY USE OF DITTO INK RATHER THAN MASTER CARBON. OTHERWISE, THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SAY. AS A COVER FOR A FANZINE, IT IS ADEQUATE. IT WOULD LOOK BETTER WITH A LETTERING GUIDE, OF COURSE, BUT ASIDE FROM THAT THERE REALLY IS NOT MUCH TO SAY ABOUT IT. HARRELL COMMENTS ABOUT THE TYRANNOSAURUS REX BEING ONLY 20' TALL INSTEAD OF THE 200' THE LOST WORLDS MOVIE HAD IT, REMINDS ME OF A NEWS ITEM CURRENTLY HITTING THE PAPERS OUT HERE. IT SEEMS THE SEATTLE-TACOMA AIRPORT IS DOING SOME EXCAVATION FOR BUILDING FURTHER RUNWAYS AND HAVE UNCOVERED A DEPOSIT OF FOSSIL BONES. OUR U OF W GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT IS SWARMING ALL OVER THE PLACE, PRACTICALLY IN RAPTURES, BECAUSE THESE ARE THE BIGGEST AND BEST-PRESERVED BONES THAT HAVE YET BEEN DISCOVERED IN THIS COUNTRY. THERE WAS A PICTURE IN THE PAPER OF ONE PERFECTLY PRESERVED PELVIC BONE FROM A GIANT SLOTH. IT WAS 45" ACROSS AND THE CREATURE IT CAME FROM MUST HAVE STOOD ABOUT 11' HIGH WHEN IT WAS ALIVE. (INCIDENTALLY, I MIGHT AS WELL MENTION THAT THIS FIND IS JUST A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE HYATT HOUSE HOTEL WHERE WE ARE HAVING THE SEXCON THIS SUMMER. ANY DO-IT-YOURSELF GEOLOGISTS, BRING YOUR OWN PICK AND SHOVEL!)

KAYMAR - K. MARTIN CARLSON. IF YOU ARE SUGGESTING THAT N'IPA GIVE FORMAL RECOGNITION TO THE IDEA OF A "BUDDY DEAL" SUCH AS YOU SUGGEST, I EMIT LOUD AND VOCIFEROUS OBJECTIONS! LOOK AT THE MESS FAPA GOT INTO FROM OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZING "DUAL MEMBERSHIPS" BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIVES. AS I MENTIONED IN UNSKED OPINION, NOW THEY ARE STUCK WITH THESE EXTRAS WHO CAN JUMP RIGHT INTO THE MAILING AND PRATTLE HAPPILY ABOUT ANY MUNDANE MATTER THEY PLEASE, ALL IN THE NAME OF THEIR SPOUSE'S FANAC, WHETHER HE/SHE GETS A CHANCE TO DO ANY OR NOT. ACCORDING TO OUR PRESENT SETUP, THERE IS NO REASON AT ALL WHY ANY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER CANNOT DO AS HE PLEASURES WITH HIS OWN FANZINE, SO LONG AS HE PRODUCES THE REQUIRED MINIMUM OF HIS OWN MATERIAL. IF A MEMBER CHOOSES TO "FARM OUT" HIS FANZINE FOR A MAILING OR TWO TO SOME WAITING LISTER OF HIS CHOICE, SO WHAT? I DOUBT THAT ANYONE WOULD CARE -- WE HAVE NO RESTRICTION AGAINST GUEST MATERIAL, AND THERE IS NO RULING AGAINST LETTING SOMEONE ELSE DO ONE'S PUBBING FOR ONE. A MEMBER IS FREE TO MAKE ANY KIND OF PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN HIMSELF AND A WAITING LISTER THAT HE MIGHT CHOOSE TO MAKE -- BUT TO GIVE AN OFFICIAL STATUS TO SUCH A PACKAGE DEAL -- NO, NO, 1000 TIMES NO! WE'D ONLY BE BREEDING TROUBLE FOR OURSELVES.

VAUX HALL FANATIC - SETH JOHNSON. MY GOODNESS, ARE YOU STILL CHEWING THE OLD ARGUMENT THAT WE OUGHT TO PERMIT "SEX IN THE APA" ON THE GROUNDS THAT "SEX IS ONE OF THE BASIC 3 DRIVES"? FOR HEAVEN SAKE, WHAT IF IT IS? WHY NOT MENTION THE OTHER 2 FOR A CHANGE INSTEAD OF INSISTING ON THIS ONE ASPECT WHICH HAPPENS TO BE UNDER A CULTURAL TABOO? OR IS THAT WHY YOU ARE INSISTING ON IT? MERELY BECAUSE IT IS CONSIDERED INDECENT TO DWELL TOO MUCH ON IT? GOODNESS KNOWS, THE OTHER 2/3 OF HUMAN MOTIVATION GIVE US PLENTY OF LEEWAY FOR INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT HAVING TO VIOLATE OUR SOCIAL MORES REGARDING THIS 1/3... FOR INSTANCE, WHEN YOU MENTION THE "LONELY OLD MAN DYING LIKE A RAT IN HIS DEEP, DEEP CONCRETE RADIATION PROOF HOLE" YOU ARE TOUCHING ON A SUBJECT THAT REALLY DESERVES A LITTLE DISCUSSION. EVERY TIME OUR LOCAL TV COMMERCIALS BEGIN THEIR SPEIL ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD BUILD A CONCRETE SHELTER UNDERGROUND FOR OUR FAMILY AND STOCK IT WITH PROVISIONS FOR 2 WEEKS, I FEEL LIKE ASKING, "WHY?" I MEAN, WHAT IS THE POINT OF IT? WITH WHOLESALERE CONTAMINATION COVERING THE SURFACE LEVEL, WHAT GOOD IS AN UNDERGROUND CUBBY-HOLE WITH FOOD FOR 14 DAYS? AFTER THE 2 WEEKS ARE OVER (AND A HORRIBLE 2 WEEKS IT WOULD BE, TOO, LOCKED IN THE DARK CLOSET WITH BARELY ENOUGH TO EAT AND NO ADEQUATE SANITATION NOR EXERCISE) WHAT THEN? SOONER OR LATER THE FAMILY HAS TO COME OUT AND FACE THAT DEADLY SURFACE RADIATION -- SO WHAT WAS THE GAIN OF THE 2 WEEKS OF MISERY? JUST AN ADDITIONAL 2 WEEKS OF LIFE? AN INTRODUCTION TO TORMENT BEFORE THE REAL TORMENT BEGINS?

GUANO - ART HAYES. I WAS TICKLED BY YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE NEWSCASTS ABOUT AFRICA.. "IN KASSAVOOBOO, THE MUMBO IS WITH BAZONKA..." THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE MUCH FEELING OF REALITY ABOUT NEWS WHICH SOUNDS LIKE A CHILD LEARNING TO SPEAK. THE WHOLE SITUATION SEEMS CONFUSED, BUT AS FAR AS I CAN MAKE IT OUT, IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE WAY THE COMMUNISTS HAVE THEIR FINGERS IN THE PIE CLEAR UP TO THEIR SHOULDERS, I'D BE ALL ON THE SIDE OF THE BLACKS. AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, I'D BE ALL FOR TRADING OUR AMERICAN NEGROES TO THE AFRICANS FOR THEIR UNWANTED WHITES.. IT WOULD LET OUR CIVILIZED NEGROES HELP REGAIN THEIR OWN HOMELAND AND THUS BRING THE NEGRO PEOPLE TO THE STATUS OF A RESPONSIBLE NATION MORE QUICKLY, ~~AND~~ IT OUGHT TO MAKE THE SOUTHERN WHITES HAPPY, INCLUDING THE NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL BOARD!

QUOTH THE WALRUS - RALPH HOLLAND. "...A FILTERING MAN'S THINKER.." OOOOOH! I HEARTILY AGREE THAT "EVERY 'ZINE OUGHT TO HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FRESH ORIGINAL MATERIAL.." BUT THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY RULE OUT THE ALL-MAILING-COMMENT ZINES. TRUE, THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN THE 'YOU-PRAISE-MY-MAG-AND-I'LL-PRAISE YOURS' TYPE OF MUTUAL FAWNING WHEREIN THE EDITORS SPEAK ONLY TO EACH OTHER AND THEN IN SUCH GUARDED TERMS THAT ONLY BY DIGGING OUT THE PAST MAILING AND RE-READING EACH CRUDDY MAG THAT YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. AN APA WHICH LETS THIS SORT OF THING GET STARTED IS IN FOR TROUBLE. BUT MOCs THAT REALLY COMMENT ARE OF INTEREST TO THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP AS WELL AS THE PERSON WHOSE MAG IS BEING COMMENTED UPON. WHAT'S MORE, IT IS INTERESTING EVEN TO READERS WHO MAY NOT HAVE SEEN THE ORIGINAL MAG AT ALL. THIS TYPE OF MAILING COMMENT IS THE BEST DEADWOOD-PREVENTIVE THERE IS, BECAUSE NOTHING INSPIRES PARTICIPATION IN AN APA LIKE LIVELY COMMENT AN A MAG. GENERALZINES WE CAN GET ANYWHERE... IN AN APA WE WANT APAZINES, AND "APAZINES" MEANS "MAILING COMMENTS".

HOCUS #17 - DECKINGER. "CAN ANYONE ACTUALLY PICTURE IN HIS MIND A DIGNIFIED, SOPHISTICATED ADULT AUDIENCE SITTING IN A THEATRE AND GOING INTO HYSTERICS OVER A CARTOON?" YUP. I CAN. I'VE DONE IT.. THE "MAGOO" CARTOONS HAD MANY AN ADULT, SOPHISTICATED AUDIENCE IN STICHES. AS FOR THE FLINTSTONES, BOTH MY HUSBAND AND I LAUGHED OURSELVES INTO TEARS OVER THOSE STONE-AGE PARODIES OF OUR MODERN CULTURE. LATELY, HOWEVER, THE HUMOR SEEMS TO HAVE WORN A LITTLE THIN -- OR ELSE IT IS THAT THE INCONGRUITIES HAVE SOMEWHAT LOST THEIR IMPACT.

THE CRY OF THE WILD MOOSE - DON ANDERSON. "IT IS A COMMON PRACTICE TO USE "GMCARR" IN THE SAME WAY THAT "BROOKLYN" USED TO BE USED IN RADIO.. BUT I'M TRYING TO BREAK THE HABIT.." TSK, TSK... AND ROB ME OF MY PLACE AMONG THE FANNISH IMMORTALS? DON'T YOU REALIZE THERE ARE COMPARATIVELY FEW FANS WHO BECOME A FANNISH LEGEND IN THEIR OWN LIFETIME? ESPECIALLY AS A HOOK FOR A LAUGH-BETTER? WHEN I FIRST ENTERED FANDOM, LO THESE MANY YEARS AGO, IT WAS CLAUDE DEGLER WHO WAS THE INFANT TERRIBLE... THEN F.T. LANEY (UNTIL HE DIED) BECAME THE TARGET FOR EGOBOO-SEEKING NAMEDROPPERS' TASTELESS JESTS AT DEVIATIONISM. NOW IT IS GMCARR THAT FANNISH SOCIAL-CLIMBERS ATTEMPT TO GAIN RECOGNITION BY DROPPING THROUGHOUT THEIR MAGS... BY ALL MEANS FEEL FREE TO USE IT, DON, FOR ALL THE LAUGHS YOU CAN GET. THE NAMES OF DEGLER AND LANEY ARE STILL REMEMBERED IN FANDOM THOUGH 4/5THS OF THOSE WHO BANDIED THEIR NAMES IN THEIR 'ZINES ARE NOW LONG FORGOTTEN... EGOBOO IS EGOBOO NO MATTER WHERE ONE GETS IT, AND I HAVE NOTICED THAT THO FAME IS FLEETING, OPPROBRIUM SEEMS TO PAY OFF DIVIDENDS...

RACHE #1 (WHOOIEE - WHAT A COVER!); NEOFAN #1 (I GOT 2 COPIES OF THIS, ONE IN THE MAILING AND ONE IN THE MAIL); NO PLACE #3; AND N'APA YAP. ALL NOTED.

AND NOW, HAVING REACHED THE END OF MY MAILING COMMENTS, I SHALL TAKE NOTE OF THE VARIOUS GROTTCHES THAT I POSTULATED "ONE PAGE" OF BY-LAWS FOR APAS LIKE OURS, BUT THE SAMPLE I TOSSED OFF RAN TO A PAGE AND A HALF. OK. SO TURN THE PAGE AND SEE FOR YOURSELF: IT CAN BE DONE!

Suggested By-Laws for the NAPS - by G.M.Carr

The NEFFER AMATEUR PUBLISHING SOCIETY is an NFFF Activity and is comprised only of paid-up members in good standing with NFFF who are interested in amateur publishing.

ARTICLE I: Membership

1. Membership shall consist of 45 members, no dual memberships permitted.
2. Applicants must apply to the OE in writing personally, no proxy applications.
3. Applicants must be paid up members of NFFF.
4. Applicants in excess of membership shall be placed on the Waiting List.
 - a. Waiting Listers must acknowledge every communication from the OE.
 - b. Two consecutive failures to reply shall be grounds for being dropped.
 - c. Applicants dropped from the Waiting List may re-apply as a new applicant.

ARTICLE II: Officers.

5. There shall be an Official Editor elected annually from the membership.
 - d. The OE shall be subject to the NFFF President and Directorate but shall administer NAPS without interference except for cause.
 - e. In the event of failure of the OE, the NFFF Pres. shall be notified at once.
 - f. The OE's duties shall consist of: (I) Assembling and distributing the mailings; (quarterly) on the 15th of March, July, September and December. (II) Keeping the records, including membership and waiting list status, and publishing same in a magazine of business to be included in each mailing. (III) Notifying the Waiting Listers of their status each quarter. (IV) Disposing of surplus magazines and mailing bundles to NAPS' best advantage, except that one mailing bundle shall be sent gratis each quarter to the NFFF Sec.

ARTICLE III: Dues.

6. Dues are \$1.40 per year in addition to the regular NFFF dues and are payable at the same time.
7. Members who have not renewed both NFFF and NAPS dues by Feb. 1 shall be dropped.
 - g. In case of doubt, the burden of proof is on the delinquent member.
 - h. Cancelled check, MO receipt, or equivalent, shall be grounds for reinstatement.
 - i. Waiting Listers erroneously notified of vacancy shall be carried as "guest" member until the next vacancy occurs, when he becomes a regular member.

ARTICLE IV: Activity Requirements.

8. Each member shall be expected to contribute in good faith to the best of his ability, at least the equivalent of 4 pp per mailing, but no less than 8 pp every 2 mailings, in 50 identical copies to reach the OE not later than the 10th of the month.
 - j. Failure to contribute to 2 mailings in a row will be grounds for being dropped, unless excused by the OE for illness or similar cause in advance.
 - k. Guest publishing and material is permitted, provided the member does at least a portion of the work, to the best of his ability.
 - l. Good Faith is to be taken into account, but suspected attempts to cheat on the activity requirements by excessive use of others' work, shall be grounds for being dropped from membership. The OE shall give one warning; a repeated violation within one year shall result in loss of membership.
 - m. Postmailings are permitted but receive no credit.
 - n. No credit for material with prior distribution, and member must notify OE of the prior distribution at the submission of same.
 - o. All decisions by the OE about activity requirements shall be final.

ARTICLE V: Voting.

9. Ballots for the election of the NAPS Official Editor shall be distributed in the December Mailing, along with Platforms of the Candidates.
 - p. The Teller shall be the out-going OE (or past OE if incumbent is running).
 - q. Ballots must be in by Feb. 1, accompanied by proof of renewal of dues.
 - r. The out-going OE must forward all records and materials to reach the new OE on or before March 1.
10. The OE may call for an advisory opinion via ballot at any mailing, but changes in the By-Laws may be made only by a 2/3 majority vote of the entire membership.

EPISTLES & EGOBOO

Roy Tackett
Route 2, Box 575
Albuquerque, N.M.
22 December 1960

GMC,

EPISTLES & EGOBOO acknowledged. My first reaction was "oh, goodie, a letter-zine, complete with vomaidens", but I note that this is the lettercol for your regular zine. Great deduction, that. Nevertheless it moves me to a loc. I try to acknowledge all zines sent although I must admit that sometimes I am quite late in doing so. Especially in the last few months since I've been on the move. Note the new address. It will stand for a bit anyway.

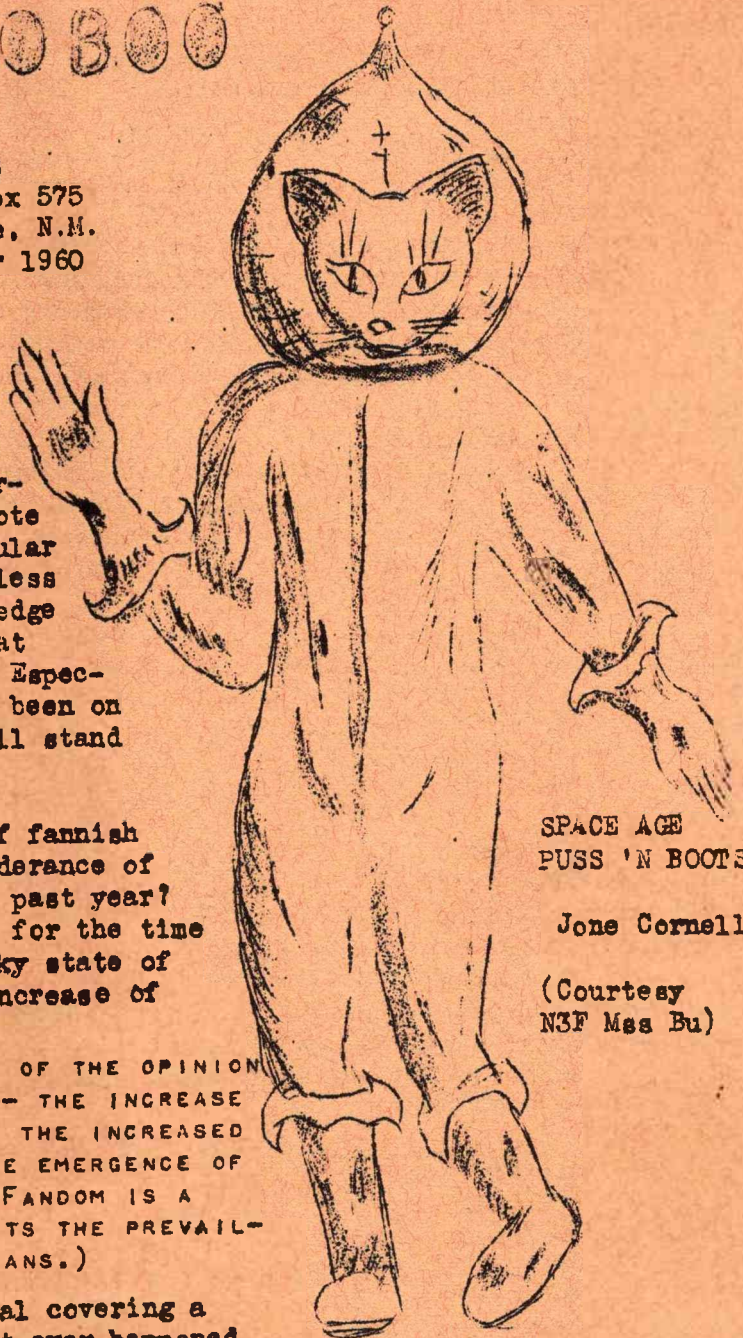
I gather that GEMZINE is not one of fannish foolishness. Have you noted the preponderance of serious zines that have appeared in the past year? Fannish foolishness appears on the wane for the time being, at least. I think maybe the shaky state of the field might furnish a clue to the increase of sercon.

(GMC: POSSIBLY, BUT I STILL AM OF THE OPINION EXPRESSED IN GZ 4/28 MONSOON -- THE INCREASE IN SERCON IS MORE LIKELY DUE TO THE INCREASED DISPLAY OF IQ AS A RESULT OF THE EMERGENCE OF NEW FANS OF MARKED POTENTIAL. FANDOM IS A FLUCTUATING SOCIETY, AND REFLECTS THE PREVAILING NATURE OF THE CURRENT ACTIFANS.)

EPISTLES & EGOBOO is rather typical covering a multitude of subjects and I wonder what ever happened to stf.

I have an aversion for quibbling about religion. That is one of those subjects on which, once there is disagreement, there is no possibility of agreement. I admire some facets of the Roman Catholic church but I disagree with it on many others. Of course, the same applies to various Protestant sects, too.

Capital punishment? I do not favor abolishing it. Somehow I do not quite believe in the essential goodness of man and figure that it helps a bit to have the authority for legal execution hanging about. I don't buy this business of "love the sinner" as Champion puts it. Oh, I favor giving a guy a break -- once. I wonder if there would not be a bit more politeness knocking about the place if people wore guns as they did in days of your? Probably not, but it seems that people would walk a bit more softly if they were uncertain of the outcome of a gun duel with a stranger. But then, that was a common practice at one time and it didn't seem to do much good.



SPACE AGE
PUSS 'N BOOTS

Jone Cornell

(Courtesy
N3F Msa Bu)

(Tackett - p. 2)

(GMC: OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT -- IT PROBABLY CLEANED UP THE LOCAL SITUATION VERY NICELY. BUT A LEGAL DEATH PENALTY AND THE PENALTY FOR BEING SLOW ON THE DRAW ARE TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS. AND SPEAKING OF ABOLISHING THE FORMER REMINDS ME OF A NEWSPAPER ITEM I SAW IN THE SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER:

WALLA WALLA, Jan. 3. A group of ministers held a meeting recently to discuss the evils of capital punishment. The meeting was held at the State Penitentiary. At the proper time one of the ministers introduced a prisoner to the group. Here's a living example of why capital punishment should be abolished, the minister thought.

"This man," the minister said, "spent 17 months in death row in San Quentin. He was spared from the gas chamber only because another man confessed to the crime. Had not this man been saved by the confession of another, an innocent man would have been killed."

The prisoner, named Tom, got up and spoke in a drawl. "Well, I don't know if you are going to like what I have to say," he said nervously, "I've spent a long time in the Row. I've seen many men go into that Green Room. I got to know them personally. You know what? Having seen these men and having learned about their crimes, I'm all for capital punishment. I always favored capital punishment...and after living with those people in the Row, I am more in favor of it. Many of these men enjoyed talking about their crimes. They were ready to kill again and again."

The rest of his talk was lost in a roar of confusion...

Champion states that if a first offender were given adequate psychiatric treatment he would eventually be released sane (or spend the rest of his life in the squirrel factory). He assumes that there is such a thing as adequate psychiatric treatment. He assumes too much.

(G.C: THAT COMMENT IS NOT AS SELF EVIDENT AS (SORRY, HIT THE WRONG KEY) YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WAS. WHY DO YOU THINK HE ASSUMES TOO MUCH IN SAYING THAT "ADEQUATE PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT" COULD RESTORE A FIRST OFFENDER TO SANITY? PERSONALLY, I DO NOT HAVE AN ALL-ABIDING FAITH IN PSYCHIATRY, EITHER. THERE ARE SOME TYPES OF MENTAL ILLNESS WHICH CANNOT BE REACHED BY WORDS ONLY. ORGANIC DEGENERATION, FOR INSTANCE, AND SOME OF THE DEEP MALADJUSTMENTS DUE TO GLANDULAR MALFUNCTION. HOWEVER, WHERE THE ANTI-SOCIAL ATTITUDE STEMS FROM A FAULTY PERSONAL INTEGRATION, ANY TREATMENT WHICH WILL ENABLE THE INDIVIDUAL TO "FIND HIMSELF" WITH RELATION TO OTHER PEOPLE, WOULD SERVE THE SAME PURPOSE. PSYCHIATRY, SOCIAL-RECONDITIONING (EDUCATION), RELIGIOUS 'CONVERSION' -- THERE ARE MANY METHODS BY WHICH A PERSON CAN BE CHANGED FROM A SELF-CENTERED, ANTI-SOCIAL FRAME OF REFERENCE, TO AN UNSELFISH, CO-OPERATIVE (LAW-ABIDING) PERSONALITY. THE PROBLEM IS TO CORRECT HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MOTIVATIONS FROM A 'THE-WORLD-IS-AGAINST-ME-I'VE-GOT-TO-LOOK-OUT-FOR-MYSELF' ATTITUDE, TO A FEELING THAT 'SOMEBODY-NEEDS-ME-I-CAN'T-LET-THEM-DOWN'.)

Agree with you, or was it one of the correspondents, in re California beaurocracy. I lived in California for several years and must admit that state - along with its eastern counterpart, New York - has some of the most idiotic ideas on education and society that I've run across. About eight years ago we left California vowing never to return - not as residents. I like it better out here in the southwest. The air is cleaner and so are the people.

Tackett - p.3)

You mention that Champion's viewpoint is conditioned to thinking in terms of possessions. Aren't most of us to some extent? I don't hold that because we could get along without modern appliances, autos, and other "possessions" that we should.

(GMC: NOR DO I -- THIS IS A MORAL EVALUATION BASED ON THE FALSE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE IS SOMETHING "WRONG" WITH POSSESSIONS -- AND ONE THAT POPS UP FREQUENTLY IN COMMUNIST REASONING. I MERELY HOLD THAT POSSESSIONS, PLEASANT AS THEY UNDOUBTEDLY ARE, DO NOT CONSTITUTE THE SOLE STANDARD BY WHICH THE VALUE OF ANY CULTURE CAN BE JUDGED.)

I can do without an air conditioner but it is much nicer with one. This was especially true over in the Great Swamps. I don't follow along with having a surplus of cars or what-have-you, either -- we get along very well with one, two would be a convenience but I figure that it is unnecessary. I ramble. This paragraph grows fuzzy.

There is much more meat in E&E but there are also umpteen pieces of correspondence that need attention.

/s/ ROY (Tackett)

Bob Lichtman
6137 S. Croft Ave.,
Los Angeles 56, Calif.
24 December 60

Dear Gem,

E&E was very interesting, but I notice that it was 32 pp in the FA and I've only the first 26 in my copy. Wha' happened? Any chance of getting the other 6?

(GMC: SORRY.. I DUNNO WHA' HOPPENED, BUT 6 PP COMING UP VIA TIME MACHINE. BY NOW, YOU'LL HAVE READ 'EM TWO MONTHS AGO.)

I have finished Psi-Phi #7 now and you'll get a copy of that by early next year (a remark that would be croggling any other time but now). Am sorry to see you drop from FAPA. Do you plan to continue E&E as a letterzine or are you going to limit your publishing to N'APA from now on? In the latter case, you might start giving N'APA a larger mag, with a pseudo-E&E included, not to mention a fanzine review column. You could possibly work the same miracle for N'APA this way as you did for the FAPA. Hope this finds you in the latter parts of a happy holiday season.

...1 Jan '61

...Thanks for the extra six pages, which arrived yesterday. Without them, I see, I would have missed that amazing remark of yours which concludes the issue.

(GMC: "AMAZING REMARK"??? WHAT'S AMAZING ABOUT THE TRUTH? GEMZINE IS KNOWN FOR IT'S SHOCK-VALUE, AND SINCE I HAVE NO WAY OF CONTROLLING THE READERS' REACTIONS TO IT, I CERTAINLY DON'T CONSIDER IT SUITABLE FOR A SERIOUS HEART-PATIENT. WHAT IS SO REMARKABLE ABOUT THAT -- WOULD YOU WANT TO RISK HAVING A CARDIAC PATIENT WHO IS CLINGING PRECARIOUSLY TO LIFE, POP A GASKET AT YOUR FANZINE? NOT ME. I'M CHOPPING GEORGE FROM MY MAILING LIST FOR HIS OWN GOOD.)

I wonder what you plan to do with the magazine now that you are no longer in FAPA? It could doubtless continue under its own steam as a letterzine on an easy quarterly basis. And since the 68 copies to FAPA would be yours to do with as you please, you could spot copies to those who would contribute interesting letters. With you editing, adding your own comments and contributing an editorial page to start new arguments (not intentionally, but your comments always do, nonetheless) you would have a letterzine like unto VoM in interest. Wanna try? best, /s/ BOB (Lichtman)

(GMC: WHAT IS ALL THIS JAZZ ABOUT ME "DROPPING OUT OF FAPA" -- A HOAX OR SOMETHING? I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DROPPING OUT OF FAPA (ALTHOUGH I WILL ADMIT THE MAILINGS HAVE BEEN OF SUCH POOR QUALITY LATELY THAT I HAVE

(Lichtman - p.2)

NOT PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO THEM. IN FACT, I NEVER DID GET AROUND TO OPENING MLG. 92 - WHICH IS WHY THERE WERE NO MAILING COMMENTS THIS TIME. BUT, FOR HEAVEN SAKES, JUST BECAUSE I MISSED OUT ON MAILING COMMENTS ONCE DOESN'T MEAN I'M DROPPING OUT. QUITE THE CONTRARY, I PAID UP MY DUES IN ADVANCE FOR 1961 WAY BACK LAST JANUARY.. ~~WHERE~~ DID YOU GET THIS PECULIAR IDEA I WAS "DROPPING OUT OF FAPA"?)

January 1, 1960

Dear Mrs. Carr,

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy new year and to thank you for putting me one step higher up the FAPA waiting list.

(GMC: GOOD GRIEF! HERE'S ANOTHER ONE... SOMEBODY MUST BE TRYING TO START A BOB-TUCKER-TYPE DEATH HOAX, OR SOMETHING!)

Since I never got around to answering your mathematical comments in N'APA, I'll do it here. In algebra, two letters placed together are multiplied. Thus if N equals 5 and F equals 6, NF equals 30. N³F equals 5 times 3 times 6, or 90. NFFF equals 5 times 6 times 6 times 6, or 1080. NF³ equals 5 times 6 times 6 times 6, or 1080. In other words, N³F does not equal NFFF by a longshot.

Cheers,

/s/ Les (Gerber)

(GMC: AH, BUT THAT'S WHERE YOU MAKE YOUR MISTAKE, LES. THIS ISN'T ALGEBRA. IT IS MERELY SIMPLE ARITHMETIC. N DOESN'T EQUAL 5, IT EQUALS "NATIONAL"; F DOESN'T EQUAL 6, IT EQUALS, 1, "FANTASY", 2, "FAN", AND 3, "FEDERATION". THEREFORE, "N³F" IS JUST PLAIN, SIMPLE, N (FOR NATIONAL) WITH 3 FS, FOR FANTASY FAN FEDERATION. NO CUBED VALUES, NO ALGEBRAIC EQUATIONS, JUST A SIMPLE SHORTCUT WAY OF SAYING, N-F-F-F. CLEAR?)

Mike Deckinger
85 Locust Ave.,
Millburn, N.J.
12/27/60

Dear Gem,

I am steadfastly against censorship, any form of censorship, which actually amounts to suppression. Certainly I realize there are degrees to it, but in the conditions postulated in the last issue of your zine, its the censorship of "obscene" mags that I am opposed to. Saying, as Plott does, that pornography seems to be the sole cause for all the world's moral troubles is ridiculous. Pornographic literature is just one small facet of the problem

(GMC: AGREED. IT IS JUST ONE SMALL FACET OF THE PROBLEM. THAT'S WHAT I SAID, ISN'T IT? BUT EVEN THIS ONE SMALL FACET CAN BE A START.)

and I refuse to believe that the reading of an "obscene" book can entice a youngster into going out and committing a rape because it is described in vivid detail within.

(GMC: ALL RIGHT, REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY. AN OSTRICH WHO STICKS HIS HEAD IN THE SAND SO HE WON'T HAVE TO OBSERVE THE APPROACHING DANGER, ALSO PROBABLY FEELS BETTER THAT WAY, TOO. BUT YOUR EMOTIONAL REJECTION OF THE PROBLEM DOES NOT REMOVE IT. CHILDREN DO BECOME CORRUPT FROM CORRUPT READING MATERIAL; YOUNG PEOPLE DO BECOME DELINQUENTS BECAUSE THEIR STANDARDS OF "RIGHT" AND "WRONG" HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. RAPES ARE COMMITTED; WOMEN ARE SLUGGED AND ASSAULTED. REFUSING TO BELIEVE THAT PORNOGRAPHY FITS INTO THIS PICTURE IS UNDOUBTEDLY YOUR PRIVILEGE -- BUT IT CERTAINLY ISN'T VERY SENSIBLE!)

(Duckinger - p.2)

LADY CHATTERLY'S LOVER is an unfortunate case, a relatively fine book that was subject to over-acute scrutiny by a blue-nosed fugghead.

(GMC: I CERTAINLY AGREE AS TO THE OVER-ACUTE SCRUTINY. THIS WAS A CHEAP MEDIOCRITY THAT DESERVED NO WORSE FATE THAN BEING CHOSEN BY SOME BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB, AND ONLY THE GOOD-FORTUNE OF HAVING IT "BANNED" BY SOME BLUE-NOSED FUGGHEAD SAVED IT FROM A WELL-DESERVED OBSCURITY ALONG WITH THE REST OF THAT KIND OF TRIPE.)

The main objection to it has always been the idea that adultery was in a sense condoned, unpunished -- and this could easily give the readers the wrong idea about such a thing (obviously untrue).

(GMC: WHAT IS 'OBVIOUSLY UNTRUE'? THAT THE READERS COULD GET THE IMPRESSION THAT ADULTERY WITH THE GAMEKEEPER WAS JUSTIFIABLE FOR A LADY IF THE MENIAL WERE SUFFICIENTLY PRESENTABLE? OR THAT IT WOULD BE 'OBVIOUSLY UNTRUE' TO DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT SUCH ADULTERY WERE NOT JUSTIFIABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES? I DON'T THINK YOU ARE VERY CLEAR ON THIS POINT, MIKE. ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY IT IS OBVIOUSLY UNTRUE THAT ADULTERY WITH THE GAMEKEEPER SHOULD GO UNPUNISHED OR OBVIOUSLY UNTRUE THAT IT SHOULDN'T? OR UNTRUE THAT THE READERS COULD GAIN ANY CONCLUSION WHATSOEVER ABOUT IT?)

LCL contains some beautiful writing and description, but it also makes a glorification of the act of adultery. I wasn't shocked at all by the book, and ditto for LOLITA which contained some truly magnificent impressionistic writing (twas written in the first person, as if by a deranged man). If any book should be suppressed it's PEYTON PLACE, not for all the ridiculous sex scenes which I yawned over but for the over-sensationalistic writing, the incredible characters, and the poor grammar and construction, indicating the woman deliberately wrote it to shock the readers. To my way of thinking, LCL and LOLITA are examples of literature, very great literature, Pettin' Place is not.

(GMC: OH, MIKE! HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING -- "VERY GREAT LITERATURE", INDEED! THEY ALL 3 ARE MEDIOCRE TRASH AS ANY PERSON OF DISCRIMINATION CAN EASILY SEE.. I THINK YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT "VERY GREAT LITERATURE" REALLY IS, MIKE, IF YOU CAN MENTION THESE IN THE SAME BREATH. PERSONALLY, I HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR PEYTON PLACE THAN FOR LCL, BECAUSE PETTIN' PLACE IS AT LEAST HONEST SENSATIONALISM AND MAKES NO PRETENSE OF BEING ANYTHING ELSE. IT IS A MUCK-RAKING, GOSSIP-MONGERING, PEEPING-TOMISM SLAPPED ON PAPER AND PEDDLED FOR A FAST BUCK, AND A DAMNED GOOD JOB OF FORCEFUL IMAGERY AND COMMUNICATION. NOBODY THAT READ PEYTON PLACE WAS LEFT IN ANY DOUBT WHATSOEVER AS TO WHAT WAS GOING ON; NO CONFUSION AS TO IDENTITIES, NO UNCERTAIN MOTIVATIONS, NO MORAL VALUES LEFT DANGLING. JUST CLEAR-CUT, FORCEFUL SMUT WITH NO LITERARY PRETENSIONS. WHICH IS MORE THAN CAN BE SAID OF THE OTHER TWO.)

There is a relation to LCL and the film code today.. One of the provisions of the tv and films is that the criminal must be punished. You can see obviously where this is a distortion on real life.

(GMC: I CERTAINLY CAN NOT SEE IT. A CRIMINAL IS PUNISHED WHENEVER HE IS FOUND GUILTY. IN REAL LIFE AS WELL AS ON THE SCREEN. AND IF SOMETIMES A WRONG-DOER IS TOO CLEVER TO GET CAUGHT, THE THREAT IS NEVERTHELESS CONSTANTLY OVER HIS HEAD THAT SOMEDAY HE WILL GET CAUGHT. ANY ATTEMPT TO GLORIFY CRIME AND CRIMINALS, TO PRETEND THAT LAWS ARE MEANINGLESS AND TO EXTOLL THE CLEVERNESS OF LAW-BREAKERS, IS JUST AS GREAT A DISTORTION AS THE WORST CONTRIVANCE OF CENSORSHIP. THE JAILS ARE FULL OF CRIMINALS WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE TOO SMART TO GET CAUGHT; THE GAS CHAMBERS CONTINUALLY IN USE FOR MURDERERS WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE TOO CLEVER FOR THE POLICE; AND THE DIVORCE COURTS CROWDED WITH THE RESULTS OF SMART GUYS WHO THOUGHT THEY COULD GET AWAY WITH IT. IT IS NOT THE TV AND MOVIES THAT ARE UNREALISTIC IN POINTING OUT THAT THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD... IT IS HARD. IN FACT, IT IS THIS VERY POINT ON WHICH CIVILIZATION RESTS -- A SIN IS ALWAYS PUNISHED, EITHER BY GOD OR BY MAN. READ HISTORY AND SEE.)

(Deckinger - p.3)

To venture this point a little further, I have only to point out the device used to give the recent film HAPPY ANNIVERSARY the Approval of the Legion of Decency. When the film was made, it was a somewhat light spoof concerning a husband who, in a fit of inebriation, revealed the fact that he and his wife had carried on extra-marital relation, before their marriage, that is.

(GMC: LOOK, MIKE, THE TERM IS "PRE-MARITAL RELATIONS". DON'T USE BIG WORDS IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN, AND WHEN YOU TRY TO USE TECHNICAL JARGON, BE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SAYING. TRYING TO SHOW OFF WITH BIG TALK, WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, ONLY MAKES YOU LOOK FOOLISH.)

It was handled in a droll way but the Legion of Decency said absolutely not; it was immoral and it made fun of the laws of marriage. So what was done to earn it the seal; an actor with a voice like David Niven's (the star of the film) recited some lines which were dubbed into the picture after it was made showing Niven thinking to himself that: 'I should never have taken her to that motel before we were married, I don't know what I could have been thinking of.' You see, immorality is immorality until the husband repents and then it is okay to show on the screen. If Niven had not mentally chastized himself for this "wicked act" the film couldn't have gotten the seal. Strange are the ways of censorship.

(GMC: MIKE, YOU ARE CONFUSING TWO DIFFERENT THINGS HERE... EDITING A FILM FOR CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE IS A PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE PRACTICE AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH "SUPPRESSING" ANYTHING... IT IS CONCERNED NOT WITH PUBLIC MORALS, BUT WITH BOXOFFICE RECEIPTS. THE LEGION OF DECENCY IS A CATHOLIC GROUP WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH SEEING THAT CATHOLICS CAN HAVE SOME DECENT MOVIES TO LOOK AT -- MOVIES THAT WILL NOT INSULT AND AFFRONT THEM, NOR ANGER THEM BY SNEERING AT THINGS WHICH CATHOLICS REGARD AS IMPORTANT. IF THE MOVIE INDUSTRY WANTED CATHOLICS TO PAY MONEY TO SEE THIS MOVIE, THEY DAMN WELL HAD BETTER MAKE SURE THERE WOULD BE NOTHING OFFENSIVE TO CATHOLICS IN IT! WHICH IS FAIR ENOUGH, ISN'T IT? NON-CATHOLICS APPARENTLY DO NOT REGARD PRE-MARITAL SEX AS IMMORAL, BUT CATHOLICS DO. THEREFORE REFERENCE TO THIS KIND OF IMMORAL BEHAVIOR WOULD BE OFFENSIVE TO CATHOLICS UNLESS IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED AS IMMORAL. WHEN THEY SET THE VALUES STRAIGHT, THEY CAN GO ON FROM THERE. BY MAKING THIS SLIGHT ADDITION, AN OTHERWISE INNOCUOUS MOVIE WAS MADE ACCEPTIBLE TO SEVERAL MILLION MOVIE-GOERS -- A BOXOFFICE CONSIDERATION WORTH HEEDING. BUT THE CATHOLICS ARE JUST ONE ETHNIC GROUP; JEWS AND NEGROS ARE ALSO CONSIDERED IN THIS TYPE OF FILM EDITING. FURTHERMORE, NATIONAL CULTURES MUST BE CONSIDERED... THE CURRENT (WEEK OF JAN. 16) NEWSWEEK HAS QUITE AN ARTICLE ON THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF EDITING NECESSARY IN DIFFERENT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; FOR INSTANCE, IN SPAIN, NO JOKES ABOUT MARRIAGE AT ALL! THERE IS SUCH A THING AS "GOOD TASTE", MIKE, WHETHER YOU ARE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE IT OR NOT, AND THERE IS NO SENSE IN EXPECTING EVERYBODY TO LIKE VULGARITY JUST BECAUSE OF FEW PEOPLE LIKE IT. PEOPLE WHO DO NOT LIKE VULGARITY AND MUST HAVE JUST AS MUCH RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM IT, AS THE FILTH-LOVERS HAVE TO WALLOW IN PORNOGRAPHY. IN FACT, SINCE THERE ARE MORE DECENT MINDED CITIZENS, THEY HAVE AN EVEN GREATER RIGHT! MAJORITY RULE, REMEMBER?)

I realize this is short, a hell of a lot shorter than I wanted it to be, but you have no idea the trouble we're going through after the recent blizzard that struck yesterday. We have no hot water, no working television, little food, and our car is stuck in the snow. Your zine was a refreshing diversion into a frantic day.

SINcerely,

/s/ Mike Deckinger.

204 Foreman Ave.,
Norman, Okla.
Jan. 3, 1961 Greg Benford

Dear Gem:

I see in today's FANAC that GEMZINE is no more
(GMC: OHO! SO THAT'S WHERE THESE RUMORS ARE COMING FROM.. APPARENTLY SINCE RON ELLIK AND TERRY CARR WEREN'T ABLE TO MAKE THEIR CAMPAIGN TO "OSTRACIZE GMC" STICK BY FRONTAL METHODS, THEY HAVE NOW SWITCHED TO TRYING A "FAIT ACCOMPLI" TECHNIQUE. BY ANNOUNCING THAT "GEMZINE IS NO MORE" THEY TRY TO PERSUADE FANDOM THAT THEIR "CAMPAIGN" MUST HAVE SUCCEEDED! (CHORTLE!) WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE BY THIS OF GZ, THIS REPORT -- LIKE THE REPORT OF MARK TWAIN'S 'DEATH' -- IS MUCH EXAGGERATED. I ASSURE YOU, IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN FANAC TO SQUELCH GEMZINE.)

but I wanted to briefly answer some of your comments on my letter published in the last issue.

I think there's a block in communication here: I say something, and you act as though I'd said something else. Gad, I think I intended to say (p 21) "this is merely an opinion without a basis in knowledge.." or something of the sort; for years I have derided people who say "but that's just an opinion, you know" since anything said is so obviously an opinion. Oh, well. I hope you'll forgive me the typo. But what I meant still stands: I don't think you know enough about the cases involved to pass judgement. I agree that in the best of circumstances emotional appeal should not be used in the decision of capital punishment, yes-or-no, but emotions ("if we don't kill 'em all they'll kill us") are used by the other side just as much and the people in support of the Chessman & S&V movements probably feel justified in using emotional propaganda since the other side does. Ideally it would be good if the whole thing were done as objectively as possible (note: whenever I say "objectively" I mean as objectively as possible; I never refer to things-which-do-not-exist without specifically designating them as such, and otherwise I mean approximations of these things as they exist in the "real" world; to not do so would take pages of extra verbage) but I fear people aren't up to that.

(GMC: WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU "FEAR PEOPLE AREN'T UP TO THAT"? DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE OTHER PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENCE, GREG, UNTIL THEY GIVE YOU UNMISTAKABLE REASON TO. I THINK WHAT HAPPENED IN THE ABOVE INSTANCE, I WAS SPEAKING OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE USING THE S&V CASE FOR PROPAGANDA, WHEREAS YOU WERE SPEAKING OF THE S&V CASE ITSELF. I REPLIED TO YOUR COMMENT 'SINCE YOU HAVEN'T, I TAKE IT, MET MANY OF THESE PEOPLE, OR READ THEIR WORKS -- YOU SEEM UNFAMILIAR WITH THE S&V CASE' AS REFERRING TO THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. BUT NOW IT WOULD APPEAR THAT YOU MEANT THAT I WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THE S&V CASE. IN THAT CASE, YOUR COMMENT, "I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE CASES INVOLVED TO PASS JUDGEMENT" BECOMES EVEN LESS PERTINENT. BECAUSE, GREG, IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO PASS JUDGEMENT ON S&V. THAT WAS THE FUNCTION OF THE COURT WHICH TRIED THEM. THE ONLY PLACE WHERE IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED APPLICABLE FOR ME TO PASS JUDGEMENT, WOULD BE ON THE MERITS OF THE OF THE ANTI-CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PROPAGANDA. AND THAT WAS WHAT I WAS DOING. DO WE MESH, NOW?)

Your system of judicial punishment, then, as I understand it from your reply to me, has two values: 1) People should be given a chance to rehabilitate in all crimes except that 2) murder is too gross a crime and should be punished by death.

(GMC: SORRY, GREG, WHAT I SAID WAS THAT ALL FIRST OFFENDERS SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO ADJUST TO SOCIETY EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO DEPRIVE SOMEONE ELSE OF HIS LIFE. IT IS NOT THE CRIME WHICH IS IMPORTANT, BUT THE HUMAN BEING WHO COMMITS IT. A FIRST CRIME COULD BE FAULTY SOCIAL TRAINING; A SECOND CRIME COULD BE COINCIDENCE. A THIRD OFFENSE WOULD INDICATE AN INCORRIGIBLE WHO IS NOT WORTH BOTHERING WITH FURTHER. BUT A PERSON WHO

(Benford -- p.2)

DELIBERATELY DEPRIVED A FELLOW-HUMAN OF HIS ULTIMATE POSSESSION -- HIS VERY LIFE -- HAS, BY THAT OFFENSE, FORFEITED HIS OWN RIGHT TO LIFE. IT IS NOT THAT THE CRIME IS TOO "GROSS" -- IT IS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO DID IT HAS FORFEITED ALL RIGHTS AT THE HANDS OF SOCIETY. IT IS AN ACT OF SELFISHNESS SO GROSS THAT IT CANCELS OUT EVERY OTHER CONSIDERATION. AS YOU SAY, THIS IS A MORAL EVALUATION WHICH COULD BE DEBATED ENDLESSLY.)

I don't agree with that second condition, but to argue it is to become involved in endless social evaluations which we couldn't do.

I believe you're wrong about Spain: ANY opinion hostile to Franco (like another party) is crushed. So the communists have a large party in Spain; perhaps if there was a democracy (with free, open elections) the communists would be gone. But I dislike supporting a fascist because he's "better" than a communist, although there is a good relativistic ethical judgement in your judgement.

(GMC: HUH? SORRY GREG, THAT SOUNDS LIKE GOBBLEDYGOOK TO ME.. WE JUST AREN'T COMMUNICATING. CAN YOU BREAK IT DOWN IN WORDS OF FEWER SYLLABLES?)

I just don't think your relativism is of sufficient "power" (that is, matters that much) in this case to override the ethically rigid values of freedom of speech.

(GMC: GREG, ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, HERE? IF I UNDERSTAND THIS SENTENCE CORRECTLY, YOU ARE SAYING THAT "FREEDOM OF SPEECH" IS SO "ETHICALLY RIGID" A VALUE, THAT IT CANNOT BE "OVERRIDDEN" BY ANY OTHER VALUE. HERE, AGAIN, WE HAVE A MORAL EVALUATION WHICH IS BASED ON DIFFERING FRAMES OF REFERENCE. I CANNOT CONCEIVE OF ANY FRAME OF ETHICAL REFERENCE IN WHICH "FREEDOM OF SPEECH" IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE LIFE OF THE NATION; THAN REST FOR A WAR-WEARY LAND, THAN RECOVERY OF A STARVED ECONOMY, AND THE GRADUAL EMERGENCE OF SECURITY OUT OF A FRIGHTENED AND DESPERATE PERIL. ALTHOUGH "FREEDOM OF SPEECH" IS A FETISH AMONG THE JOURNALISTS OF THIS GENERATION, THIS CONCEPT IS RELATIVELY NEW IN THE IDEOLOGIES OF THE WORLD. OURS IS THE FIRST GREAT NATION THAT I KNOW OF TO HAVE PROCLAIMED IT AS AN IMPORTANT VALUE... AND LOOK HOW QUICKLY THAT VERY VALUE IS THREATENING TO DESTROY US! IN LESS THAN 2 CENTURIES, WE ARE ALREADY FACED WITH A THREAT OF BEING SWEEPED INTO OBLIVION BY A CULTURE WHICH, WHILE TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS SO-CALLED 'ETHICALLY RIGID VALUE' OF OURS, RUTHLESSLY SUPPRESSES ANY VESTIGE OF IT FOR ITSELF. IF, TO YOU, THE TERM "FREEDOM OF SPEECH" HAS BECOME A SEMANTIC SYMBOL FOR A CERTAIN TYPE OF HUMAN DIGNITY, SUBJECTIVELY, I CAN GRANT YOU THAT IT IS, INDEED, "ETHICALLY RIGID". BUT IN ACTUAL PRACTICE, THE ^{subgan}"FREEDOM OF SPEECH" HAS BEEN SO ABUSED AND MIS-USED BY MERETRICIOUS AND CALLOUS WORD-MONGERS, THAT I FAIL TO SEE THAT IT CAN BE REGARDED AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A DANGEROUS CLICHE. SOMEWHAT ON A PAR WITH THE NOW-INFAMOUS "FIFTH AMENDMENT". JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THE WORDS, "FREEDOM OF SPEECH"?)

All your comments about believing and opinions etc betray a basic fault in your philosophy.

(GMC: TSK, TSK, GREG. BE HONEST, NOW. HOW CAN THERE BE A "FAULT" IN A PHILOSOPHY EXCEPT BY THE STANDARDS OF A DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHY? WHAT MAY SEEM A "FAULT" BY YOUR SCALE OF VALUES, MAY BE A VIRTUE ACCORDING TO THE SCALE OF VALUES I MEASURE ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY BY.)

If you accept the "rule" that logic alone should dictate your beliefs, then your stand that one should spread his propaganda and militate against other's ideas is wrong. You probably don't accept this rule, and this is why you disagree with me.

(GMC: I DON'T NECESSARILY DISAGREE WITH YOU, GREG, I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SAY; IN THE ABOVE, FOR INSTANCE: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "LOGIC" AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "SPREAD HIS PROPAGANDA AND MILITATE AGAINST OTHER'S IDEAS"? I SUSPECT YOU ARE SEMANTICALLY CONFUSED.)

(Benford - p.3)

But I pointed out that others in fandom dislike your continual harping that I AM RIGHT etc. because I believe they are none too certain of their own beliefs

(GMC: SO FAR SO GOOD -- THAT'S WHAT I THINK, TOO. SO LONG AS I PROCLAIM THE SAME VALUES AS THEY ACCEPT, EVERYTHING IS FINE -- IT IS ONLY WHEN I PROCLAIM A VALUE WHICH CONFLICTS WITH THEIR BELIEFS, THAT THE FIRMNESS OF MY BELIEFS SHOWS UP THE SHAKINESS OF THEIRS. SO THEY OBJECT.)

logically, all beliefs start from equally apriori assumptions, and are mutually unverifiable and irrefutable) (because,

(GMC: HERE WE GO AGAIN: I THINK THE WORD "LOGIC" IS GIVING YOU SEMANTIC PROBLEMS, GREG, BECAUSE I SUSPECT YOU HAVE NOT BROKEN THIS VERBAL SYMBOL DOWN TO ITS MANY MEANINGS. I THINK YOU ARE USING THIS WORD INTERCHANGEABLY WHEN YOU SHOULD, FOR SAKE OF BETTER CLARITY, BREAK DOWN YOUR MEANING INTO MORE EXPLICIT TERMS. FOR INSTANCE, THERE ARE CERTAIN PHILOSOPHIES WHICH ARE EMBODIED IN 'LOGIC' LIKE A FLY EMBALMED IN AMBER. THE "LOGIC", IE, THE SYSTEMATIC PROCESS OF DEDUCTION, IS THE DOMINANT FACTOR IN THIS TYPE OF ARGUMENT. IT WAS MUCH FAVORED DURING MEDIEVAL DISCUSSIONS, AND GAVE RISE TO A GREAT MANY BRILLIANT ESSAYS. AND ALSO TO A GREAT DEAL OF STUPIDITIES, DEPENDING ON THE INTRINSIC MERIT OF THE POSTULATES. THEN THERE IS THE "LOGIC" OF EVALUATION; OF SEEKING A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CAUSE AND EFFECT. AND THE TERM IS ALSO USED AS A SYNONYM FOR THE ABILITY TO REASON. ACTUALLY, IF YOU ARE USING "LOGIC" IN THE MEDIEVAL SENSE THAT A SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY DEPENDS ON THE SEMANTIC PROCESSES WHEREBY IT IS EVOLVED -- THEN WE JUST ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THING. BECAUSE I HAVE NO USE WHATSOEVER FOR THIS TYPE OF SO-CALLED "LOGIC". I THINK IT BELONGS BACK IN THE DARK AGES WHERE IT CAME FROM. HOWEVER, IF YOUR UNFORTUNATE CHOICE OF WORDS IS INTENDED TO SAY THAT ALL ETHICAL STANDARDS OF VALUES ARE EMBRACED ARBITRARILY, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, SOME EMOTIONAL AND SOME EMPIRICAL -- THAT I CAN AGREE WITH. A SUBJECTIVE EVALUATION CANNOT, BY ITS VERY NATURE, BE EITHER VERIFIED OR REFUTED, BECAUSE THE "GOOD" AND "BAD" ARE JUDGED ON A SUBJECTIVE BASIS.)

and (they) think your assertions a bit childish; they think you are blinded by your own creed and cannot see that your beliefs are just as arbitrary as most others

(GMC: (CHORTLE) YOU'RE TELLING ME..! YES, I'VE NOTICED HOW OFTEN A PERSON WILL GO INTO A REGULAR DITHER OF SCREECHES THAT I AM CHILDISH OR NARROW-MINDED OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU FOR MAINTAINING MY OWN ARBITRARY SCALE OF VALUES IN THE FACE OF HIS OWN. BUT I HAVE ALSO NOTICED THAT THIS REACTION INVARIABLY COMES FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THAT I HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO MY OWN STANDARD OF VALUES, AS THEY HAVE TO THEIRS. AND IT INEVITABLY FOLLOWS THAT WHEREAS I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE VALUES OF THEIR FRAME-OF-REFERENCE AND HAVE REJECTED THOSE VALUES AS INFERIOR OR OF DUBIOUS ADVANTAGE, THEY ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE VALUES I UPHOLD. INDEED, SOMETIMES THEY HAVE VERY WEIRD IDEAS OF WHAT THOSE VALUES ARE -- AND QUITE OFTEN THEM IMPUTE TO ME THESE WEIRD DISTORTIONS, AND ASSUME THAT IS WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT. SO I AM AMUSED, BECAUSE IF THERE IS CHILDISHNESS DISPLAYED IN THIS EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS, IT IS NOT ON MY SIDE... ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE THOSE WHO DO UNDERSTAND THE VALUES I ACCEPT, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE THEMSELVES DISCARDED IT FOR A DIFFERENT SCALE. NO SCREECHING FROM THIS TYPE OF CORRESPONDENT; NOTHING BUT A MILD, "I DON'T AGREE..." I KNOW WHERE HE STAND, HE KNOWS WHERE I STAND. WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE SAME SCALE OF REFERENCE, BUT SO WHAT? EACH KNOWS WHAT THE OTHER SCALE IS ALL ABOUT, SO THERE IS NOTHING TO ARGUE OVER.)

(Benford - p.4)

(not "all others", because some are not logically consistent)
Now, maybe you don't believe in logical positivism (for this belief I've outlined as a certain adaptation of this philosophical school), but this explains, I believe, why others find you obnoxious.

(GMC: SORRY, GREG, YOU MAY BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU HAVE OUTLINED "LOGICAL POSITIVISM" BUT IT DID NOT SUCCEED IN COMMUNICATING TO ME ANY MORE THAN WHAT I HAVE KNOWN ALL ALONG -- INDEED, WHAT I SAID IN MY PREVIOUS E&E:, NAMELY AND TO WIT: FANS GET MAD WHEN I SAY (IN EFFECT) THAT TO MY SCALE OF VALUES, THEIR WHITE IS MY BLACK, AND VICE VERSA. THEY DO NOT GET MAD IF I SAY (IN EFFECT) YOUR BLACK IS ALSO BLACK ACCORDING TO MY SCALE OF VALUES, EVEN THOUGH I SAY IT WITH EQUAL VEHEMENCE.)

Your comment (p 24) that a statement that black is white really wouldn't irk me, contrary to your smugly expressed belief.

(GMC: AHA.. AND IF YOU WEREN'T "IRKED", HOW COME IT SOUNDED "SMUG" TO YOU?)
(Incidentally, I'm not offended by your attitude, but you sound awfully bigoted at times)

(GMC: UMM.. HERE'S ANOTHER OF THOSE SUBJECTIVE INTERPRETATIONS I MENTIONED ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE -- BECAUSE I ADHERE TO MY OWN PHILOSOPHY WITHOUT COMPROMISE WITH OTHER SYSTEMS WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE INCORRECT, IT SEEMS "AWFULLY BIGOTED" TO YOU. DOES IT NOT OCCUR TO YOU THAT YOUR CHOICE OF THIS EXPRESSION IS AN INDICATION OF YOUR SUBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF MY OB-
DURACY, RATHER THAN THE OB-
DURACY ITSELF? HMMM?)

and if you are trying to convince your opponent, this is no way to do it.

(GMC: WHO IS TRYING TO CONVINCING WHO? I'M JUST CALLING THE SHOTS THE WAY I SEE 'EM.. IF ANYBODY WANTS TO ARGUE, I'M AVAILABLE TO DEFEND MY POINT.)

I do live by an ethical system

(GMC: THAT'S AN INTERESTING STATEMENT, GREG. I WONDER WHY YOU FEEL ON THE DEFENSIVE -- DID ANYBODY SAY YOU DIDN'T LIVE BY AN ETHICAL SYSTEM?)

but its basic postulates are just as arbitrary as yours, and I wouldn't feel irked by any assertions by you about your beliefs unless they were either so positively stated that I assumed you didn't realize how logically apriori they were

(GMC: DEAR ME, HOW LOGICALLY APRIORI CAN ONE GET?)
or if you made a logical error. We can argue over basic statements upon which to argue over the conclusions to be drawn from these beliefs.

(GMC: TSK, TSK, GREG.. ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SAYING? IF THAT LAST SENTENCE SAID ANYTHING AT ALL, I SURE MISSED IT...)

(There is a corollary here: the beliefs must be stated so precisely that they can have only one meaning; I am aware of the fact that there are systems which spring from the same postulates, but these are general postulates, and have more than one exact meaning.

(GMC: FORGIVE ME IF I LAUGH A LITTLE, GREG, BUT I'D BE HAPPY TO SETTLE FOR ANY MEANING IN SOME OF THESE SENTENCES. I SUSPECT YOU JUST OPENED A VERBAL PETCOCK AND LET THE WORDS FLOW WITHOUT BOTHERING TO CHECK THEM TO SEE IF THEY SAID ANYTHING. BUT GREG, IN MY SCALE OF VALUES THAT COMES UNDER THE HEADING OF "STUFFED SHIRT" AND I NEVER LET IT GET AWAY FROM ME UNCHALLENGED. I AM NOT EASILY INTIMIDATED BY A POLYSYLLABIC VOCABULARY, SO BIG WORDS DON'T SCARE ME OFF PER SE... IN FACT, I PIN THEM DOWN AND DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY THEM. IF ANYTHING.)

Benford ~ p.5)

Your comments on something either being "Right" or "Wrong" are, I hope you realize applicable only to ethics.

(GMC: AND ARITHMETIC PROBLEMS, AND MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS, AND ROAD MAPS AND A MILLION OTHER ORDINARY THINGS. "TRUTH" HAS TWO GENERAL CATEGORIES, OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE. IN THE OBJECTIVE WORLD MANY THINGS ARE "RIGHT" AND "WRONG" WHICH HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ETHICS. THEY DO HAVE REFERENCE TO SOME OBJECTIVE SCALE OF VALUES -- WHETHER IT IS A COOKBOOK, A ROAD MAP, OR A FINALS EXAMINATION. IT IS ONLY IN THE REALM OF SUBJECTIVE TRUTH THAT WE FIND THE ARBITRARY SCALE OF VALUES WHICH WE USE TO DETERMINE "RIGHT" AND "WRONG" TO REFER TO ETHICS. AS I SAID IN MY GZ LO, THESE MANY MOONS AGO, THERE IS NO "RIGHT" OR "WRONG" UNLESS THERE IS SOME SCALE OF VALUES TO WHICH TO RELATE IT. THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF HAVING ETHICAL STANDARDS, IE, SO THAT ONE HAS A MEASURE BY WHICH TO DETERMINE "RIGHT" AND "WRONG". WHAT ELSE?)

apply.

There are examples in physics where this does not

(GMC: THAT STATEMENT IS MEANINGLESS UNLESS YOU BACK IT UP WITH PROOF. OR EVEN WITH A SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION TO SHOW YOUR FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING IT.)

(You might say that this is because there isn't enough known at the moment, but actually the limitation is basic, (or believed to be so) and cannot be erased by further investigations.)

(GMC: ISN'T ENOUGH KNOWN ABOUT WHAT, FOR HEAVENS SAKE? PHYSICS? WHAT "LIMITATION IS BASIC"; AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT "CANNOT BE ERASED BY FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS. WHAT INVESTIGATIONS? GREG, ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT? IF ANYTHING?)

There are descriptions of events which can only match part of the problem,

(GMC: WHAT "PROBLEM"? GREG, ARE YOU SURE....???)

and others match other parts. Of course, you can say the "right" solution is the one which explains by using all descriptions, but if they are extrapolated, they contradict each other. So where are you?

(GMC: I'M RIGHT HERE AT 5319 BALLARD AVENUE, SEATTLE 7, WASH. ALSO IN A STATE OF CONFUSION... GREG, ARE YOU SURE....???)

This is a SP (small point).

Your mistakes which I commented on were that physics labs no longer deal with sight & sound effects en masse. A hospital must be used, although there is a small chance that some lab, somewhere, might be conducting work in this area at the moment. I don't know how to say this, but look: You say "you admit that ... this type of equipment is not readily obtained... in short, it would be readily obtained in a lab which conducts that type of experiment..." (I've paraphrased.) But I said: ".large emitting devices are NOT READILY OBTAINED IN PHYSICS LABS." Did you misread, or what?

(GMC: WELL, GREG, IF YOU INSIST ON NIT-PICKING, LET'S SEE WHO IT WAS THAT DID THE "MISREADING": IN GZ 4/28 I SAID, IN CONNECTION WITH BOB LAMBECK'S CLAIM TO UNUSUAL VISUAL RANGE,

"HAVE YOU EVER HAD YOUR VISUAL RANGE CHECKED IN AN EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS LAB?" TO WHICH YOU SNEERED IN YOUR LETTER OF E&E,

"YOU SEEM TO DISPLAY A RATHER NAIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD SOME THINGS... SHOULD LAMBERT REALLY HAVE HIS SIGHT CHECKED IN AN EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS LAB??? GOSHWOW! A REAL EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS LAB! YOUR SIGHT CAN BE CHECKED FOR RANGE IN ANY HOSPITAL OF REASONABLE SIZE, WHEREAS LARGE EMITTING DEVICES ARE NOT READILY OBTAINED IN PHYSICS LABS. EXPERIMENTAL LAB IS REDUNDANT, ANYWAY -- ANY LAB DEALS WITH EXPERIMENT, NOT THE PURELY THEORETICAL END. BUT THIS IS A SMALL POINT." UNQUOTE.

(Benford - p.8)

TO WHICH SNIDENESS I REPLIED, "YOU MAY BE RIGHT IN CALLING THE PHRASE 'EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS LAB' REDUNDANT - I WOULDN'T KNOW. BUT I NOTICE THAT YOU ALSO POINT OUT THE FACT THAT THE TYPE OF EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR TESTING BEYOND THE ORDINARY RANGE OF VISION IS 'NOT READILY OBTAINED' IN SHORT, IT WOULD MOST LIKELY BE FOUND ONLY IN A LAB WHICH CONDUCTS THIS TYPE OF EXPERIMENT." NOW, LET'S ANALYZE WHO SAID WHAT: I RECOMMENDED AN EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS LAB, IE, A PHYSICS LAB EQUIPPED TO PERFORM THE TYPE OF EXPERIMENT REQUIRED FOR TESTING SUCH UNUSUAL VISION AS BOB LAMBECK'S. YOUR OBJECTION -- OR, AT LEAST, AS MUCH AS I AM ABLE TO FIGURE OUT BENEATH YOUR GENERAL ATTITUDE OF SUPERIORITY AND SCORN, SEEMS TO BE AT THE REDUNDANCY OF THE PHRASE "EXPERIMENTAL LAB" ON THE GROUNDS THAT ALL PHYSICS LABS ARE "EXPERIMENTAL". HOWEVER, YOU ALSO SEEM SCORNFUL AT THE SUGGESTION OF A PHYSICS LAB IN THIS CONNECTION AT ALL BECAUSE OF SOME RATHER PECULIAR NOTION OF YOURS THAT "LARGE EMITTING DEVICES" OF THE TYPE NECESSARY FOR THIS KIND OF TESTING ARE TO BE FOUND ONLY IN HOSPITALS. WELL, GREG, IT MAY BE THAT IN YOUR CITY SUCH DEVICES ARE TO BE FOUND IN HOSPITALS. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT HEREABOUTS, I HAVE NEVER KNOWN OF ANY HOSPITAL THAT CONDUCTS SUCH EXPERIMENTS. THE ONLY SUCH DEVICE I KNOW OF IS IN THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON. THE UOFW PHYSICS DEPT. DOES OCCASIONALLY CONDUCT SUCH EXPERIMENTS ON GROUPS OF STUDENTS. LOCAL HOSPITALS TO MY KNOWLEDGE, DO NOT. THEREFORE, MY RECOMMENDATION WAS ACCURATE. I RECOMMENDED A PHYSICS LAB WHICH CONDUCTED THAT KIND OF EXPERIMENTS. AS TO YOUR SUGGESTION OF HAVING ONE'S VISION CHECKED IN A HOSPITAL -- I LEAVE IT TO THE READERS TO SAY WHICH ONE OF US "MISREAD" THE OTHER... FOR THAT MATTER, I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT REGARDLESS OF THE LOCATION - WHETHER IN A HOSPITAL OR A UNIVERSITY - THE LABORATORY WHICH CONTAINS SUCH "LARGE EMITTING DEVICE" AS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR SUCH AN EXAMINATION, WOULD BE, IPSO FACTO, A "PHYSICS LAB" BECAUSE OF ITS VERY NATURE. IN SHORT, GREG, NO MATTER HOW FINE YOU SLICE EACH HAIR, YOU ARE STILL NO CLOSER TO BEING RIGHT THAN YOU WERE BEFORE.)

What I referred to was that you don't seem to know anything about science, but feel nonetheless qualified to talk about it, not only re: this but in connection with evolution, birth control, etc.

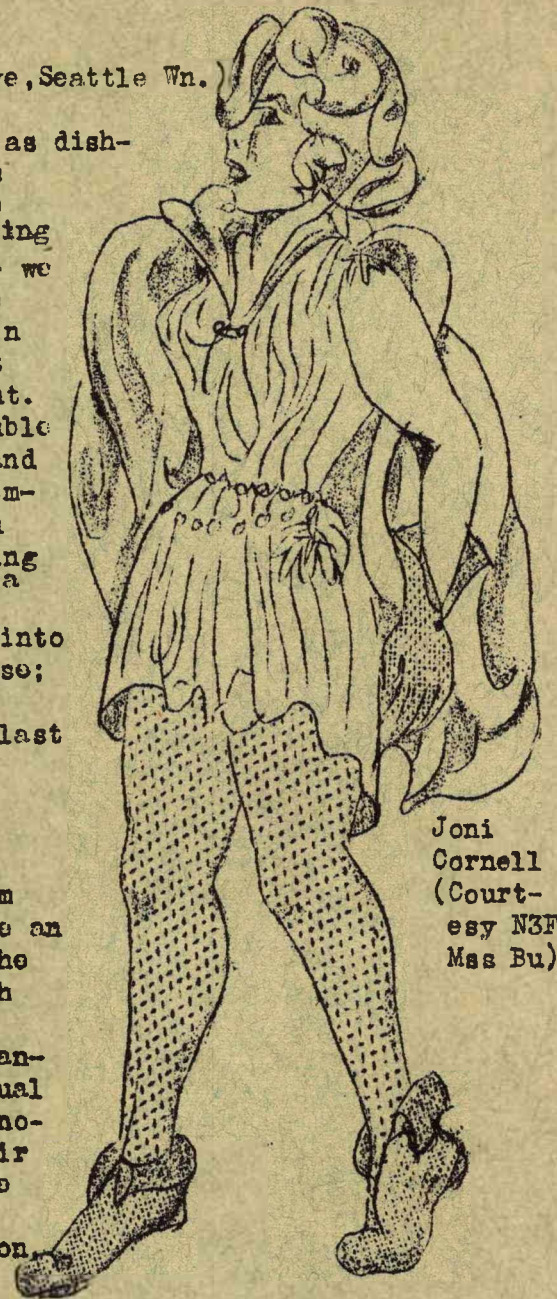
(GMC: I'M GLAD YOU PHRASED THAT "SEEM TO KNOW" BECAUSE IT EXPRESSES THE ACCURATE PICTURE. TO YOU, I DO NOT SEEM TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE SUBJECTS, BECAUSE I DO NOT USE THE TECHNICAL JARGON IN WHICH YOU ARE ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING THEM EXPRESSED. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT MY KNOWLEDGE IS AS DATED AS YOURS IS -- ONLY MINE IS DATED A COUPLE OF DECADES PRIOR TO YOURS, AND SINCE THEN, NEW CONCEPTS HAVE BEEN ADDED AND NEW VERBAL SYMBOLS INTRODUCED. IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT SOME OF THESE NEW CONCEPTS MAY HAVE MADE THE EARLIER "KNOWLEDGE" OBSOLETE -- BUT THAT IS NOT THE POINT HERE UNDER DISCUSSION. THE REAL TRUTH APPEARS TO BE, GREG, THAT YOU HAVE SO LIMITED AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED, THAT YOU ARE COMPLETELY LOST WHEN THEY ARE DISCUSSED IN OTHER WORDS THAN THOSE TO WHICH YOU ARE ACCUSTOMED. TRUE, I MAY LACK INFORMATION REGARDING RECENT DISCOVERIES, AND, ALSO TRUE, I MAY BE RELYING ON INFORMATION WHICH IS NO LONGER REGARDED AS CORRECT. BUT YOU, GREG, ARE SO LIMITED IN YOUR COVERAGE OF THE FIELD, THAT YOU DO NOT EVEN KNOW THIS... YOU THINK IN YOUR PSEUDO-KNOWLEDGE, THAT ABSENCE OF YOUR FAMILIAR JARGON MEANS NO KNOWLEDGE AT ALL!! Tsk, tsk... IF YOU UNDERSTOOD THE SUBJECTS AS WELL AS YOU THINK YOU DO, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE ARGUMENTS NO MATTER IN WHAT TERMS THEY ARE COINED.)

Must go. Hope you haven't dropped out of FAPA (WHAT, AGAIN? IS FANAC RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS RUMOR, TOO?) since I've gotten on the list and hope to get in some day and want to see you there, too. If you have, perhaps you can let me know by letter what you disagree with in this letter... and by the way, if you reply best send this letter back, since I'll know what I said. Okay? all best, /s/ Greg Benford.

UNASKED OPINION

(Review of FAPA Mlg#93 by G.M.CARR, 5319 Ballard Ave, Seattle Wn.)

Let's face it -- these huge mailings are dull as dishwasher, and getting duller by the mailing. As Chris Moskowitz truly says, they sound more and more like the backfence gossip of a couple of housewives hanging out the laundry... What's more, I think it is time we took stock of the reasons for this condition. I've run across it once before -- that was years ago when SAPS was at a peak of productivity which ground out a haystack of words for every small needle of talent. The trouble then -- and I think it is the same trouble now -- is that there were too many female members and they were doing the majority of the publishing. Femmes are fine to add spice and savor, but when you overload an apa with sweetening -- just like anything else -- it becomes nauseating. Like trying to eat a hamburger that's been soaked in Maple Syrup. It used to be that the few females who managed to get into an apa, did so without benefit of boyfriend or spouse; they got in by means of their own efforts and their own talents. The few who got in otherwise, didn't last very long -- and weren't interested enough to care whether they did or not. The few who did stick -- Lee Hoffman, Nan Gerding, MZBradley, Helen Wesson, yes, and GMC -- did so because they were interested in the apa itself, and not merely some male fan whom they hoped to interest in themselves. But then came an influx of Him-'n-Her teams into fandom -- wherein the combined efforts of two fans added up to one fannish personality in itself, ie, J&R Coulson, J&A Young; E&FM Busby, etc. It was to accommodate such dual fannish personality that FAPA passed its disastrous "dual membership" legislation. (A totally unnecessary innovation, incidentally, because fans who attained their fannish credentials as a team would undoubtedly have continued to function as a team, no matter which of them held the actual membership.) But this intention, laudable in itself, only backfired. Because, instead of bringing more team-personalities into FAPA, it only brought more females. What's more, in a classic example of locking the barn door after the horse was stolen, it undid at a stroke all the careful screening which was going into the FAPA Waiting List... FAPA, faced with the threat of indiscriminate Waiting List rotation, has now set up mechanism for weeding out potential deadwood or otherwise undesirable candidates. But, even while they carefully scrutinize the W/L, they have thrown the back door wide open to any mundane mentality that happens to marry a FAPAN! We gravely debate whether or not to raise the membership limit by 5 or 10 members -- but we have already raised it to a possible 130 members! We can control the quality and credentials of 65 members; but of the spouses thus blithely admitted, we cannot do a thing! These mundane minded members have full right to prattle happily about anything that interests them -- and, as we can plainly see, they take full advantage of it! Now, wait a minute -- don't get me wrong! I am not pointing a finger at any one particular femme in FAPA, nor even at any particular group of spouses. They are all of them, each in hiser own right, very worthy and intelligent people; kind-hearted, good cooks, gracious host & hostesses and all that. But, too many of them in an APA Mailing can and DOES make it a watered-down, mundane-slanted, clique-ish, verbose and femme-topheavy mess. Yakkity yakkity-YAK -- and little else!



Joni
Cornell
(Court-
esy N3F
Mas Bu)

And now to the Mailing, such as it is. After much weary wading through page after page of dull, mundane-type nattering, hoping against hope for an occasional spark of fannish fire to titillate the imagination or stimulate the mind, all I have been able to come up with is this. If it seems dull, well -- that's what I'm trying to tell you! FAPA is dull....

DIFFERENT -- Sam Moskowitz. Sorry, Sam, after re-reading the same paragraph 3 times and still no better off than before, I ran a "Fog Index" check on it.. the 17.2 fog rating (over college level) plus the crowded format, turned out to be just too discouraging. I just couldn't get that interested in French stf. However, I applaud most heartily Chris' Moskowitz' comments on the last page, which I quote herewith:
"I'm getting pretty fed up reading how Joe Blow smashed up his car in Oskrosh while looking for a lost fan, or how Bob Beanie's cats chewed up his only copy of Weird Tales, or how Dick Neofan finally swapped his old mimeo for a new Gestetner... (but)... what gets me most is that too many of you write stuff that sounds like gossip between two women over the backyard fence while they hang up the laundry." Congratulations, Chris. That needed saying...

GAFIA PRESS STYLE BOOK -- Redd Boggs. Another exquisitely neat example of a perfectionist's publishing skill. A glance at the grammatical policy exemplified therein, reminds me of an anecdote by Wm. F. Buckley, Jr:

"I recall with pleasure a dialogue several years ago between the journalist Ralph de Toledano and his publishers. They had sent Toledano the proof sheets on his latest novel. In going over them, he noticed that wherever the word Heaven or the word Hell appeared, they had not been capitalized, as the manuscript had prescribed, but appeared instead in small letters. Toledano painstakingly corrected each of them, elevating them once again to upper case, and sent back the proofs. He received a telephone call. 'Ralph,' said the publisher, 'we have a set of style rules over here we must observe. Why do you insist on capitalizing Heaven and Hell?' 'Because,' replied Toledano evenly, 'They're places. You know, like Scarsdale.'"

ALIF -- Karen Anderson. I'm glad I plodded my way past the first 5 pages of this, because after a slow start it picked up interest on page 6 and by the end of the little fantasy, I quite enjoyed it. But the shiny-slick writing of the back page seemed more suited to "Better Homes & Gardens" than to a fapazine.

PAPER TRAPEZE, VOOS, FA, FAm., CATCH TRAP & LEFTOVER #1 -- MZBradley. I like your analysis of "square"... It seems to boil down to a lack of creative originality, doesn't it? And I suppose that is one of the things which characterizes the difference between fans and non-fans, too. Fans dare to think their own thoughts, without waiting first to see what the party line is going to be; they dare to enjoy their own amusements, whether anyone else enjoys them or not, and they are articulate enough to express their own ideas and appreciations without waiting for someone else to do it for them. But, most of all, they have the moral courage and emotional stamina to keep on enjoying themselves in the face of the blank, non-comprehending stares of the unimaginative, mundane, follow-the-other-fellow "squares".

MELANGE -- Bjo & John Trimble. Enjoyed the pseudo Sherlock Holmes -- excellently done. I suspect you are one of the few who could realize how incredibly lucky you were to get a full set of Norris cartoons... I had to wait for somebody to die in order to get an out-of-print First Book. They are just simply not to be found for mere money! (Which reminds me, I'd better send for the one that's probably just out by now...it's about time.)

THE BULL MOOSE - Bill Morse. The lack of white space made these closely-crowded pages unreadable to me. In fact, in some places I just had to give it up for a hopeless job.. however, I did manage to fight my way through that featherbed of unrelieved verbiage far enough to catch your comments about the Puritan conscience, which reminded me of another quotation from Wm. Buckley, Jr (National Review Bulletin, Jan.21). Although it concerns Pres. Kennedy and refers to the well-known fact that in our Democratic United States, an Irish immigrant's grandson (or is it great-grandson) can yet hope to become President (if his father can afford it!) and therefore by rights should be addressed to a US-Citizen-type FAPA rather than a Britisher like you, Bill, nevertheless, here it is:

"John F. Kennedy took a break the other day to address, non-jointly, the Massachusetts Legislature and the Harvard Board of Overseers. In his speech to the lawmakers, Jack urged upon the land his own strict moral code, which, he allows straight-faced, derives from "New England ideals." It was old John Winthrop, along with assorted 'Pilgrims and Puritans' who fashioned the Kennedy morality... There was a snappy meeting of the Overseers (where it was observed that the last Massachusetts man to serve as both Overseer and President was John Quincy Adams, doubtless another Kennedy spiritual ancestor),... but it was short and sweet, because the neo-descendant of Puritans had a date in New York with some Pilgrims from the old frontier, headed up by Frank Sinatra and Peter Lawford, who had been at the Copa discussing affairs of state with a couple of other friends of the Kennedys, Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Davis Jr. All were looking forward to the big inauguration blast. May the shades of John Winthrop and his Arabella shipmates be easeful, in the knowledge that their ideals rest in the willing hands of so stern a group of moralists!"

Incidentally, does anybody remember the name of that stf story which referred to "President Kennedy" -- and the date?

SAMBO #10 - Sam Martinez. Congratulations to guest-reviewer Kent Corey for coining a new term, "Calkinism". Although I had never particularly connected Greg Calkins with this cliquishness nor ever noticed any sign of it in his attitude, nevertheless I have noticed - and deplored - this phenomenon and am very glad that someone has taken the trouble to define it. I quote:

"When I," says Corey, "write about Calkinism, I do not mean that gentleman from Salt Lake City, but rather the philosophy that the ends justify the means. It is the doctrine that a small group can control the thinking and voting of the great mass of humanity called fandom, not by honest effort and hard work, but by self-glorification at the expense of others." An excellent summation, Kent! also, Fannish 'focal-points' please note.)

CELEPHAIS - Bill Evans. "I'm curious" says Bill, "just what you feel about requiring credentials from the WL -- first you say you do, and then you object to the amendment to do this." Bill, the answer is simple: I'm in favor of screening the Waiting List by any reasonable means -- and requiring credentials seems to be a very reasonable way of doing it -- but I am against the foolishness of passing an amendment about it. This should be a simple administrative matter -- why try to make one of those pseudo-Acts of Congress out of it? After the debacle which resulted from amending the Constitution in order to let in husband-and-wife teams (instead of just letting them in by administrative consent) so that now we are stuck with them whether they are good for the apa or not, why risk another? In short, I'm against red tape for its own sake. Once we start on these red-tape binges, the group is likely to find itself so tied up in amendments, plus amendments to the amendments, and revisions to the amendments to the amendments, that we might as well dump the Constitution entirely and strangle ourselves in our own red tape! In fact, I think we would be better off if we passed a "law" to scrap all the revisions and amendments and rearrangements and went back to the ~~good old~~ FAPA Constitution we started out with!

AN ILL-ADVISED PORTFOLIO - Jack Harness. Tsk, tsk.. all those wasted fanzine covers!

DIS - Jack Speer. Referring to my comment about the intrinsic value of the Biblical story of creation as outlined in the First Chapter of Genesis you ask, "What other order might someone have reasonably guessed things occurred in?" The various other "explanations" then current range from absurdities like a gigantic turtle with the earth growing out of its back, to metaphysical flights of fancy such as Brahma dreaming. Many of these myths seem wildly ludicrous to us now, which is in sharp contrast to the Bible story; ~~wherein~~ the more we learn from science about the probable creation of this planet and the creatures on it, the more clearly we are able to see what it actually is saying in that remarkable First Chapter. By the way, Jack, just what is your authority for making such a preposterously dogmatic statement as, "Aid to their schools is at the very heart of the Catholic drive for power?" Does a simple request for justice in the form of equitable tax-representation as it refers to education constitute in your eyes a "drive for power"? The fact is that Catholic parents DO have a legitimate beef at the way they are discriminated against in the matter of taxation without representation. Catholics support their own schools without asking any Federal or local taxes from anybody. Period. They plunge up their own money to maintain their own schools, and are perfectly willing to abide by all scholastic standards of the Public Education officials in doing so. But in spite of their voluntary support of the education of their own children, these same Catholics are taxed millions of additional dollars to educate non-Catholic children in the Public School Systems from which they, the Catholic parents, do not derive even one penny's worth of benefit. In spite of the fact they are lifting million dollars worth of financial burden from the rest of the taxpaying public, Catholic parents are taxed right along with everybody else for support of the Public Schools. And it is no use to prate that silly excuse, "Well, they COULD send their kids to the public school.." because the truth of the matter is, they CAN'T! The public school system just simply could not absorb these additional scholars. Even if the parents were willing to settle for the kind of slipshod education their children would get in the public schools (which they are not) there just simply are not enough classrooms and teachers to take care of them. The truth is that the public school system is geared only to take care of the non-Catholic children, and it is taxing the Catholic parents right along with the rest of the public to do even that much! Catholics have a justified beef at being thus unjustly discriminated against in being compelled to educate non-Catholic children as well as having to maintain their own schools in order to see that their children get the kind of education the parents want for them. Catholic tax-payers feel, and rightly so, that they should be given some tax-rebate to compensate for the load they lift from the public school system; or, if that is not practical, then at least they should be given some share in their own tax-money in the form of "fringe-benefits"... a benefit in no way connected with the education itself, but merely a little help from school busses, or public health nurses, or other tax-supported, non-educational benefit. In short, to put it bluntly, Catholic children have to walk to school while their parents pay taxes so that non-Catholic children can ride. Is THIS our American "justice"? Was it for THIS kind of tax discrimination that our forefathers dumped the tea in Boston Harbor? What's more, just exactly HOW does it indicate a "drive for power" that U.S. Catholic parents resent this unjust discrimination? How would you like it if your kids had to walk, while you paid taxes so Catholic kids could ride?

RICHARD E. NIXON, MAN OF DESTINY - Bob Silverberg. Looks like we guessed wrong, eh Bob? I suspect that Nixon missed the boat this time and never will catch up with it. By the time the Democratic Administration's 2 terms are over, the grass-roots Conservatives will probably have gathered strength enough to put up their own Candidate -- thus tearing open the political situation into a schism that will split both parties. I think that in another few elections, the Republican Party or the Democratic Party (or possibly both) will be as dead as the "Whigs" and the "Federalists". And in the new line-up of political thought, I don't think there'll be any place for Nixon.

BOBOLINGS #7 - Pavlat. Sorry to hear the reasons why we haven't heard much from you lately, Bob. This was a nice-looking job you managed for us this time, but frankly I found it prettier to look at than interesting to read.

WHAT AM I DOING HERE , LIMBO #4 -- (Dave Rike). Bill Donaho makes a good but rather short-sighted point on page 10 (LIMBO), "I don't think that McCarthy and followers or the House Unamerican Activities Committee makes a clear distinction between Communist people who may be Communists, and Left-Wingers who have beliefs unpalatable (unpalatable) to the Right-Wingers." I quite agree with that observation, Bill, however I wish to point out that there is no reason why they should make any distinction. What is more, I rather suspect there is no distinction possible for them to make. There is a deep-rooted emotional involvement here, in which the standards of values are arbitrary, and not based on any degree or gradation. Like, for instance, the similar emotional involvement which has caused such anguish and political embarrassment in the Deep South by the ill-advised attempts to legislate away a deeply-rooted social segregation between white and negro schoolchildren. To bring up the point of the exact degree of Leftist tinge in a suspected individual is as meaningless to a Right-Wing Conservative, as it would be to ask one of those hysterical, screaming Southern-Whites on a desegregated-school picket line to stop and consider the exact degree of negro blood in the colored pupils passing through. The Southern White fears pollution by even the faintest trace of colored blood; the Conservative "reactionary" fears pollution by even the faintest trace of "liberal" thinking. Not so much for himself, as for the object of his deepest love and protection. To the Southern White, the spectre of a negro male in a mating embrace with his loved and cherished and all-white daughter is a nightmare left over from only God knows what vestigial racial memory; and likewise, the Conservative has an equally horrible nightmare of his beloved nation being raped by an equally tainted political philosophy, namely, Communism. However, I suspect that many anti-Anti-Reds do not realize this blanket inclusiveness, and are as shocked at being classed among the outright Communists, as a Gentleman of Color would be upon being treated as "just another nigger" by a contemptuous Southern White. Unreasonable? No doubt -- but, nevertheless, it is there. Just ask any of the New Orleans demonstrators, for instance, if it would be all right for his daughter to marry a man who was only 1/64 negro and you'd undoubtedly get the same answer as you would if you asked a Right-Wing Conservative if it were all right to elect to public office a man who was "only" a Left Winger, not an actual Communist! (Incidentally, I wonder how many of you who read this, happened to see that issue of LIFE Magazine which carried the pictures of the Sammy Davis, Jr -- Mae What'sis wedding? What was YOUR emotional reaction to it? Oh, come on now -- be honest with yourself! What exactly did take place in your emotional metabolism when you looked at that monkey-faced little black man with his arm around that radiantly-blonde white girl?)

PHLOTSAM #16 - Phyllis Economou. Your comment to Coslet that "Jews come in all sizes, shapes, colors. They are brilliant and stupid; sparkling, prosaic and downright dull; conformist and rebellious; enterprising and lazy; rich and poor -- just list all the human traits and you'll know what a 'Jew' is" is true, of course, in the sense that ANY ethnic group is composed of human beings and will, therefore, display human characteristics in all degrees and variations. But just as it is true that whatever it is that places him in this ethnic group is inevitably bound to leave some mark on his personality, so it is that whatever it is that causes a person to class himself as a "Jew" is bound to leave its own characteristic mark. Perhaps it is this same intangible standard of values which Coslet finds fascinating -- or perhaps the indefinable results of that intangible standard of values. However, it is interesting to note that Jews, themselves, do not hesitate to label themselves a separate "species", and just recently David Ben-Gurion shocked the entire Jewish world by his definition of it and its obligations. Bluntly, he reminded them that a Jew is a Jew first, and a citizen of whatever country he happens to be living in secondly, and that the 'children of the Diaspora' should not forget that they have a racial, religious, and economic obligation to their own nation, Israel. This didn't sit at all well with many Jewish leaders, but a surprising number of them -- all over the world -- agreed with him in his evaluation of their position. How many of you reading this are of Jewish descent and what was YOUR reaction to Ben-Gurion's comments? Or did you hear of it at all? Incidentally, I read about it in the National Review Bulletin for Jan. 21, but did not see the entire text, merely a passing reference to it.

STF TIMES - Taurasi. Re the report of the panel discussion at Pittcon about "Who Killed Science Fiction?" -- I don't know who killed it, or if it is dead, alive, or in a coma. All I know is that the other day I had a batch of bills on my desk to attend to, including a couple of mags up for renewal. One I wrote a check for, the other I tossed in the wastebasket. It wasn't until I was emptying the wastebasket that the significance of my choice dawned on me. The mag I had renewed was mundane slick of the house-and-gardens variety, the one I tossed away for Mag. of F&SF -- to which I have subscribed ever since the very first issue!! What's more, I left it that way... Since Boucher stopped editing MofF&SF I've found less and less of interest in it, until now about the only thing I can find to look forward to is the Ferdinand Feghoot pun. Who "killed" MofF&SF for me? An answer to that question might answer the other as well.

FOTHPATLAW One - Pierre Versins. Very pretty -- Is the story by MZB the same as that of similar title mentioned by Taurasi as being the only non-reprint in Ackerman's new British venture?

ICE AGE 3 - Noreen Shaw. Chuckled at that A. Reiss cover cartoon.. Children are supposed to believe what their teachers tell them -- which is one reason parents ought to pay a heck of a lot closer attention to what the teachers are teaching (and, incidentally, why Catholics prefer to have their children educated in schools where they, the parents, have a reasonable assurance the kids are being taught ideas and values which are acceptable to the parents.) I recall being told in the 3rd grade that pickles had absolutely no food value. I believed it for years, until I found them listed on a Calorie Chart and discovered how wrong I had been! But misinformation of that nature is unimportant compared to the damage which can be done by having irresponsible subjective opinions passed on to the children as facts. (Which is a very good reason, in my opinion, for having control of the public school system teaching staff firmly in the hands of the local school board, rather than off somewhere in the depths of a Federal Bureaucracy. Talk about your "drive to power" via schools -- the real danger is not from tax-burdened Catholics who ask for a little relief from this dual expense, but rather those clamoring parents who want more and more "aid to education" from any and every source they can get it, even including the handing over of their own children's minds to any bureaucratic propagandizing their greediness invites.)

LAUNDRY MARK - Hevelin. This resurrected reminder of the "good old days" of FAPA reminds me of another characteristic of that era -- the Deadwood that crowded it to the very edge of The Elephant's Graveyard of Fandom! That's one facet of the Ancient Glory I think we can well do without!

LE MOINDRE #21 - Boyd Raeburn. That delightful poem-satire deserves reprinting after every Halloween... Very nice. The rest is unimportant grotching -- has anybody else ever noticed that while Boyd can become almost lyrically poetic when describing things to eat and places in which he ate it, when he gets on other subjects he sounds like he's suffering from dyspepsia? Grumble, grumble, grotch, grotch...

BANDWAGON - Dick Ryan. But Dick, I have been namin' 'em -- so what happens? Every time I name a name and present my evidence to support it, somebody accuses me of "scolding"!

APOCRYPHA #2 - Curt Janke. I like your mailing comments ^(previous mags) much better than this other material, but then I suppose you can't sparkle brilliantly ALL the time... Well, anyway, the poem on the last page reminded me how difficult it is to reach a stage of Truefannish euphoria when your drinking companions are only squares... (Hmm, lessee, that ought to make a jingle itself: Truefannish euphoria
Just isn't there
When one's drinking companion
Is only a square...

Alas, still unreviewed are Phantasy Press (nice but unexciting); COSWALZINE 181 (Those Who don't mail me's leave little to comment on); TARGET FAPA: VANDY: LARK: SALUD: SERCON'S BANE: VINEGAR WORM: KLEIN BOTTLE: HORIZONS (Glad to see you continue with the covers. Looks very nice even if I didn't get around to reading it!) & the Hoffwomazine...