

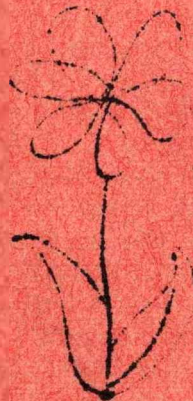
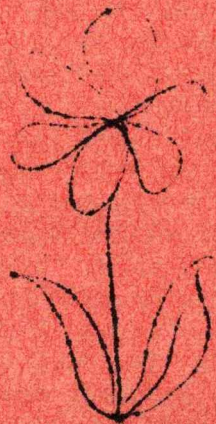
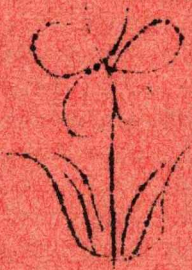
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PRODUCED FOR HEARST MAGAZINE #18 BY G. H. CARR, 5319 BALLARD NW, SEATTLE 7, WA.

RECEIVED SEP 28 1963



AS I SEE IT

Mailing Comments, N'APA #17

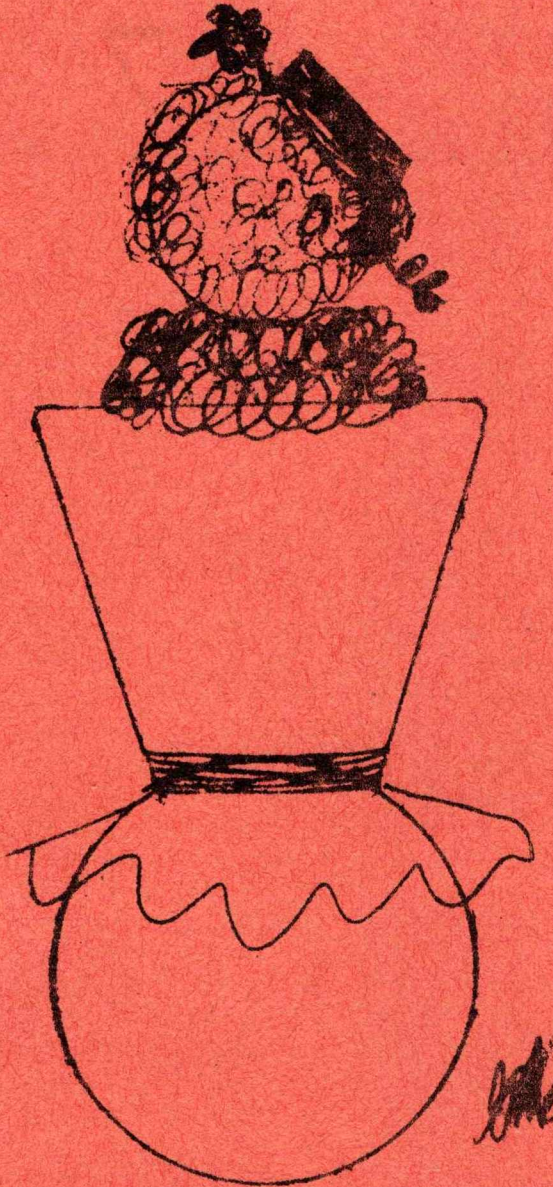
RECEIVED SEP 28 1963

June 18, 1963: The N'APA mailing ought to be here just about any day now, and in the meantime I can while away the waiting by commenting on the Post-16 and Pre-17 mags, as follows:

HALF LIFE - Stan Woolston. Once again Stan manages to save his neck (and his membership) with a last-minute contribution. Looks like he's aiming to be the Elmer Perdu of N'APA. (Just kidding, Stan...) Re your Thoughts After Reading Books: One of the greatest obstacles in human communication is the difficulty most people have in recognizing the difference between "Fact" and "Opinion" as they pertain to "Truth". Both fact and opinion (which is a subjective evaluation of fact) is called "truth". For instance, it is a generally agreed-upon "truth" that murder is bad. Yet, actually, this is an opinion. Murder may be a fact - but whether it is good, bad, or indifferent depends on a subjective evaluation; which evaluation must, of necessity, be an opinion. So when you speak of the difficulty of assessing "slanted" news, you are entirely right. Most reporting is done on the basis of opinions regarding events, rather than on the basis of the facts of the events.

Which is, of course, one reason why there is so much emotional

turmoil in the world today. Emotional evaluations of the same events are clashing all over this nation: happenings that seem "good" to one, are extremely "bad" in the opinion of somebody else -- which is bad enough among just ordinary citizens, but immeasurably worse when it occurs among the so-called "molders of public opinion". My goodness, if newspapers took to reporting bare facts with no slanting at all, most people wouldn't know WHAT they were supposed to think. Most of the news would be meaningless without the opinions of the "Commentator" who tells us what they signify in his opinion...and the same even can be evaluated so differently as to be entirely unrecognizable. Take Huntley & Brinkley vs Dan Smoot -- their broadcasts can be mutually exclusive as to reporting, yet equally "true" as far as their conclusions are concerned. That being the case, the side with the more adherents usually wins out -- which is why the Leftists fear the emerging Right-Wing Conservatives so much. For about 40 years the Leftists have been the ones to evaluate the "news" and set the standards of political "truth" in this country. But now the Conservatives are speaking up to say they don't agree with these opinions which are being peddled as fact. Re SINA - (Chortle) When somebody succeeds in teaching bulls to operate a zipper, I'll begin to take 'em seriously...



June 21, 1963: ATSAADDBSFNS #2 - Most of Califandom, it seems. Sounds like everybody had a good time -- what else can anyone say about a one-shot party? The trouble with one-shot parties is that they all have such a darn good time it makes the readers jealous just to read about it... I sigh, wistfully, at the hectic life it must be for Bjo to feed this continual influx of fans and friends, to say nothing of the energy required to keep a house in reasonable shape after being overrun recurrently by feckless fans breaking bottles of corflu all over the place and upsetting furniture and no doubt trompling each other in the mad rush for steak and eggs or spaghetti or whatever -- to say nothing of informal dunkings in the swimming pool. Gee! Wouldn't it be nice to have a private swimming pool to get dunked in? I'll bet the Trimbles are sorry to leave so nice a spot... Ah, to be full of youth and enthusiasm and the warming, abundant vitality that draws friends like honey to a bee!

June 26, 1963: The 17th Mailing came today and, as usual, I've scanned it superficially for a first impression. I'm somewhat shocked to see this demand for a "Referendum" on disbanding the apa and turning over the funds to T&FF. For Gosh Sakes, WHY? We're doing all right for our size. An apa doesn't have to trip all over a Waiting List just to indicate an "interest" in the club, and considering our minac requirements are so low, it seems to me the members are exhibiting a whole lot of interest in it when they consistently turn out such good-sized Mailings. Must be at least an average of 200 pages per... And I must say I don't like this other proposal, either -- why should the members be compelled to publish according to someone else's ideas? An apa exists primarily for the pleasure the individual members get out of it -- and most of that pleasure comes from publishing what THEY want to publish. I go along with the idea that there should be insistence on as high quality as the member is able to achieve, and that the material should fall within the limits of decency as defined by the Postal Authorities who transport the mags. But when it comes to telling the members how many pages of what kind of material they must publish, that's going too far in the direction of "Big Brother Is Watching You"...mutter, mutter. I'll have more to say on this subject in BAITBOX!

June 27, 1963: GARDYLOO #3 - Frank Wilimczyk (Wil LIM sik? WillemCHECK?) Actually, the timing was perfect on this Pre-Mailing, Frank. It arrived in the same Post with the Mailing Bundle. This is such a nice-looking mag that it's a pleasure to handle. I suppose the large amount of white space gives it that clean, uncluttered look -- so different from the usual ditto'd mag. Encyclopedia-reading seems to be an esoteric taste deeply enjoyed by a few, but ignored by the many..as the Farmer said about the Dictionary, "It's an interesting book, but it changes the subject so often!" I do not use an encyclopedia for recent information because of the very thing you mention: the impossibility of getting really recent, up-to-date info. Whenever I want that, I use the library or, better yet, call up the Newspapers. They are (at least in Seattle) very helpful in digging up info from their reference files. They have a department especially for that service.. For instance, the other day I had occasion to refer to the recent scandal of a couple of years back when radio Disk-Jockeys were receiving merchandise in return for favors.. I couldn't think of the word which was coined to cover that situation. Dictionaries wouldn't have it; neither would encyclopedias. But the Seattle PI Reference Library came up with "Payola" just like that..! On the other hand, I like old, outmoded encyclopedias because of the freshness of the then-contemporary slant. For instance, I have a set published in the eighteen-nineties and it reflects the Victorian bias in a way which is even more informative than the facts and figures presented. Evidently it never occurred to any of the writers than encyclopedias were supposed to be objective. The biographies are often complete with moral judgements regarding the lives covered; and occasionally one runs across an article -- such as religion -- which is more enlightening as to the writer's state of mind than it is of the philosophy under discussion. From the human interest angle, these old encyclopedias make fascinating reading... There is such a difference in perspective. Re the Fullbright article: Nice job of repro. But I must say I am somewhat surprised to see that Fullbright is apparently echoing the John Birch Society slogan, namely:

"This is a Republic, not a Democracy -- let's keep it that way!"

HALF LIFE - Stan Woolston. Glad to see you make two mailings in a row -- hope you manage to make every mailing from now on... Remember those pro-and-con discussions there used to be in SAPS & RAPA re the merits of the occasional "fat and rare" vs the regular-~~tho'~~-scanty contribution? I'm still of the opinion that the latter is preferable in the long run -- especially if the scant few pages are mcs. Keeps the members in closer contact, thus improving and building up spa morale. In my opinion, a regular member who hits every mailing with mcs -- even only with minac requirements -- is more valuable to an apa than a member who gives his all in one big burst. In the former instance, everybody gets a little bit of egoboo every time, whereas in the latter, it is the member himself that gets the egoboo for the fancy job he did. And that works in reverse, too -- when a member has a little bit in every mailing, he usually gets a little bit of egoboo in return in every mailing -- which gives him an incentive for putting something else in, etc. etc... whereas if he only contributes once in a while, he only gets egoboo once in a while and thus tends to lose interest in the group and think it isn't "worth while".

July 15, 1963: HATRED #1 - Richard Plzak ("Plub-ZAK"? "PIL-zik"?) I suppose plenty of the other members will point out the juvenile implications -- psychologically -- in your choice of your first title, so I'll pass over it and comment on your "Has Big Brother Come and Gone" item. Early stf used to speculate along this line quite a bit. Some of Asimov's early pulps were especially good, I thought. I still remember one story he wove around the idea of a robot that refused to be dismantled when the aliens prepared to leave their mining operations on this planet, and ran away to create its own "garden of Eden" and breed a race of companions for itself. Several authors used this theme, although I can't recall their names... I think perhaps Nelson Bond was one. You are quite justified, I think, when you attribute a possible deterioration to "...not the influx of neos, but the indifference of the more experienced members. After all, one can expect the neos to improve with each mailing, but poor work from an experienced fan leaves little to entice one to remain.." But, let's face it -- "what goes up, must come down" is an adage true in fanac as well as in the law of gravity. There has to be a place for fans on the downgrade as well as those on the upswing -- and perhaps a place like N'APA is as good a meeting-ground as any...

ABOLITIONIST #1 - Phil Roberts. Your old Economics teacher was right, Phil -- and I'll be hoping for something better in the next mailing, when you will have had an opportunity to take a second look at what you are writing. The old adage about "haste makes waste" is never so well demonstrated as when an inexperienced writer tries to fill up space with "on-stencil" chatter.

GOOP #1 - Dian Girard. Inasmuch as I'm the one who's been yakking about getting Dian into N'APA, I suppose I really shouldn't feel so let down by this... After all, it's better than nothing -- I suppose -- and it does show what a pleasant addition to our membership she would be if we could get her as a member. Only, I can't help being a bit disappointed that SAPS gets her best efforts and we get only the leavings... (Still, Fred is a Ghood Rhoy to get this much for us!)

CURSED #2 - Len Bailes and Arnold Katz. Congratulations on being appointed head of the CorBu, Arnold. This is one of the key positions in NSF. If it is conscientiously administered, it can mean a happy and prosperous period for NSF; but an over-excess of enthusiasm combined with a lack of tact has often thrown the poor old "dying monster" into a tizzy in the past... Good luck on the job, and take it easy on the broom-swinging until you've had a chance to know your way around the club... All of which, of course, has nothing to do with your mag (but at least it is better than just a "Noted".) The contents didn't spark any comment, and there's no point in criticizing the repro when it is obvious you are doing your best. Better luck next time -- maybe by then I'll find something to gripe about.

HIPPICALORIC FOUR - Ted Johnstone. Well, hooray for you! Let's hope it happens again and again! (Sigh...I, too, sold a story once..) Re your query as to Sears-Roebuck's impact on South America: as I recall the documentary I saw on TV, they created the middle-class by, as you put it, "multiplying the income of the poor". They advanced credit to small manufacturers to enable them to set up factories to manufacture the goods they let out contracts for; actually it amounted to setting up numerous small businesses and then buying the output. But the payrolls stimulated buying, thus creating consumers for the merchandise manufactured. What effect, if any, this circular process had on the very rich, I do not know. But it did lift huge segments of the previously "hopelessly poor" into middle-class status -- even to the point of relative affluence. Being no economist, I can't figure out how it worked, but obviously it did. Re seat belts: This seems to be a very hot issue, but to me somewhat on the order of the old argument whether it would be better to build a hospital at the base of the cliff, or put a fence around the top. True, seat belts may help to minimize the damage and injury in an accident (and I certainly don't argue that point. In fact, I had them installed in our car even though it gives me shudders to use them -- I seem to have an uncontrollable uneasiness lest I be trapped in a burning auto or in a car that went off a bridge into deep water and I can't get the belt unbuckled -- a feeling I recognize as irrational, but uncomfortable all the same.) But it seems to me that seat belts are a minor bandaid on the cancer of our highway casualty statistics. The real place to start cutting down on accidents would be at the automobile factories: present day automobiles are lethal weapons. They demand a perfection of reflexes and a concentration of attention to driving that is far beyond the majority of drivers. The combined potential of speed and power -- to say nothing of the hypnotic effect of superhighways -- is just too much for the ordinary, average individual to handle efficiently at all times and under all circumstances. Personally, I think it is time the manufacturers became a little more realistic in their approach to the consumer market, and started manufacturing cars to fit the driver's ability rather than to suit his vanity and egoboosting.

DUBHE #110 - Ed Baker. Far be it from me to argue with anybody about the niceties of Latin pronunciation. For all I know, it may have been changed several times since my Highschool days.. But what makes you so sure that the Rev. Michael de Angelis, CRM, Ph.D., has the last word on the subject? Wasn't there quite a furor in British academic circles just a few decades back on the subject of Latin pronunciation? Seems I recall it as one of the big points of controversy in "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" and other novels of the era.

July 16, 1963: FOO FARAW #8 - Fred Patten. Groucho's Fenneman, as I suppose you know, now has a show of his own called "Funny Funny Films". To date, I've seen the first 2 of them and though I didn't think they were as all-fired funny as he seems to think they are, it has occurred to me that this program is a wonderful opportunity for Home-Movie buffs like the Unicorn Productions. Certainly those I saw, "Genie" and "Mesquite Kid", were a heck of a lot better than anything presented to date by Fenneman. In fact, one thing that appeals to me about this program is the hope that the next contestants may prove to be one of the LASFAS bunch... Re publishing credits: "Gee," says I plaintively, "do we have to have a change in the by-laws every time somebody thinks up a new wrinkle for N'APA?" Actually, the Constitution says nothing at all about page credits -- the only thing it says on the subject at all is the statement of Minac requirements, namely: "Every member of the Alliance shall be responsible for the publishing of a minimum of 6 pages of his own original material, in 46 substantially identical copies, every two quarterly mailings." I can't see there is anything at all in the by-laws about "credits" for publishing -- either one's own or material for someone else. That is a matter entirely up to the OE, and the only reason for bringing it up at all is to keep track of minac requirements. It doesn't say the member must publish it himself -- just make sure it gets in the mailing. Therefore, inasmuch as the only point in page-count is to make sure that everybody does get his full six pages in, what difference does it make who gets credit for anything over and above this minac? No matter how much one publishes for someone else, it doesn't count toward one's own minac, and you can't build up a backlog to tide over a spell of gafia.. So why bother?

NIEKAS #5 - Ed Meskys. Lots and lots of goodies to comment on this time, Ed. First, let me thank you for that graphic description of the Ruddigore picture-gallery scene. The production I saw was very amateurish by comparison, but I enjoyed it immensely in spite of its sketchiness. Some of the patter was unintelligible because of the dated allusions and references to political matters long since gone by the board... That's one thing about G&S which makes full enjoyment difficult -- one has almost to be a student of late-Victorian mores and politics to comprehend the full subtlety. ## Also, thanks for pointing out the tie-in between C.S.Lewis and Tolkien. I found Lewis' trilogy (Out Of The Silent Planet, Perelandra, and I've forgotten the name of the third book) to be dull to the point of absolute boredom and I never did finish the third volume.. I think I've still got it kicking around somewhere in my basement. Currently, I'm reading his "Screwtape Letters" (dedicated to J.R.R.Tolkien, incidentally) and I think they are much more readable than his novels. They are really just a series of thinly disguised sermons on human veniality and for all their flavor of fantasy and humor, contain quite a depth of thinking. C.S.Lewis has been getting quite a bit of notice in the mundans review columns as a "science fiction writer" -- much more so than genuine stf writers like Heinlein or Asimov. He had an article reprinted in READERS' DIGEST from SHOW "The Magazine Of The Arts" (Feb. '63) on the subject of the probable impact of Man in Space... It was a symposium of opinions from four prominent people representing science, philosophy, religion, etc. and, as far as I know, he was the only one of the four chosen for reprint. (The others were Max Lerner, James M. Gavin, and Edwin Diamond). Personally, I've always considered C.S.Lewis' writing as barely marginal stf -- which is why I am surprised to see him so highly hailed for his "science fiction". But possibly that is exactly why he IS so hailed -- because, being essentially a mundane writer with faint stfish overtones, he can be appreciated by mundane readers who have to take a watered-down variety of stf, not being able to bear the genuine, full-scale variety. ## Thanks for introducing new-member Anne Chatland's artwork to us via your cover. I think it speaks very well for the future of N'APA to see that all four of our new members have a contribution in their very first mailing! ## Re Contamination: There are so many emotionally loaded side-issues involved with regard to the Ban on Bombs movement, that it is impossible to examine the real moral issues involved with regard to wide-spread contamination elements on this planet upon which humanity depends to sustain life. But here in the United States we have another problem of contamination which has no such side-issues to becloud the moral values. I refer to the contamination of the water-table by detergent chemicals that do not break down. Already certain areas in the thickly populated East Coast residential areas are in serious trouble -- in some places they have to buy drinking water by the gallon because the tap water gushes with detergent suds that "keep on sudsing and sudsing.." as the TV advertising commercials put it. The water tables deep underground are being contaminated, as well as the surface water, and inasmuch as these chemicals do not "break down" from treatment, there is no way to decontaminate the water. With millions of gallons of additional detergents being added to this already dangerous situation daily, the problem is rapidly growing more acute -- and the Government, which is so ready to stick its neck out where there are a few votes to be gained, seems strangely loth to protect our natural resources when there may be a few votes lost. Sure, some women are going to scream bloody murder if they have to go back to using soap again after being accustomed to the convenience of detergents. But not me. I have noticed that even here in Seattle -- with a supposedly "pure" mountain-high source of water far above any possible contamination by ground water -- even here the water occasionally stinks when it comes out of the tap -- sometimes perfumed, sometimes foul. I know that my buying habits won't make much difference in the final outcome, but nevertheless, I am switching back to soap. I may have to scrub a little harder, but at least I will not be guilty of adding my small share of contamination to a price-less necessity that, once destroyed, may destroy us all! Sometimes I don't know what to think of this national schizophrenia which lets the Madison Avenue Madness push us into our own destruction! For instance, there is no longer any doubt as to the correlation between lung cancer and cigarette-smoking. But still the cigarette manufacturers are pushing their deadly product via TV, radio, newspaper, magazines and billboards -- everywhere you look! The national scandal of our traffic fatalities I mentioned elsewhere -- but still the Advertising pressure on the public is for more and faster power men it is already far beyond what the human physique is able to handle!

(*also in the CATHOLIC DIGEST for August 1963)

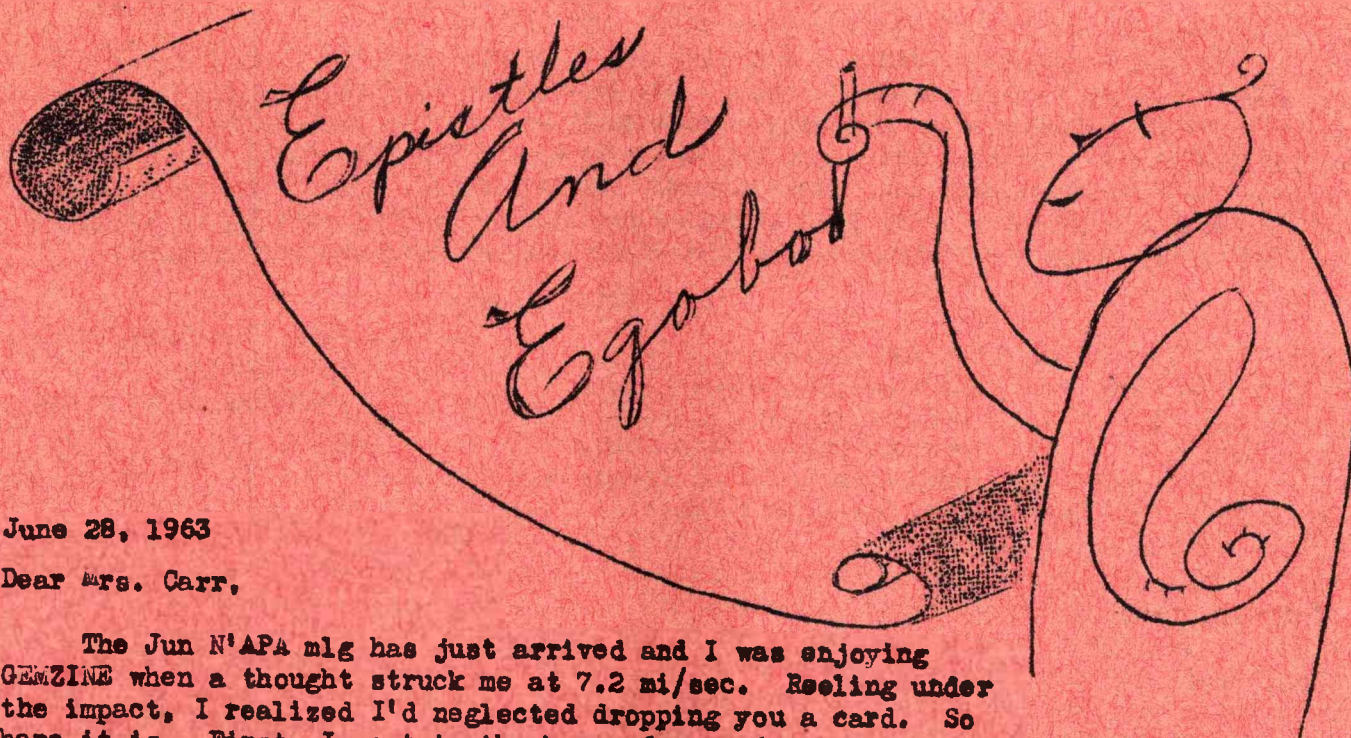
PIED TYPE #69 - Tom Armistead. Congratulations on those poems, Tom -- I thought they expressed real meaning -- or, at least one of them did, No.1 - Present. You are right that we do waste our precious present moments all too often in longing for some fancied "other time" -- past or future. But why did you term your baseball "short-short" a satire? I saw nothing satirical in it. It was just an ironical ending --- (somewhat marred by that bit of affectation "...unto the ground") to a piece of good, straight descriptive writing. Chortle, that cartoon really expresses the frustration of futility! However, I don't get the meaning of your remark "It was interesting to note that Harvey Forman was number 69. Sort of fitting, I suppose." What is "fitting" about number 69 -- does it have some esoteric meaning which is particularly applicable to Harvey? If so, what is it?

MARTIAN BY WAYS. - Vern Deves (stencilled and run off by OE Fred Patten so all credit for the excellence of layout, repro and general appearance - including the cover - must go to him. "Youse is a Ghood Bhoj, Fred!") This is one of the weirdest review columns I think I've ever seen -- it defies the imagination, you'd have to see it to believe it. For instance, Vern says the reviews are based on "...the usual system with ten high", but then he goes on to rate them without regard, apparently, to the "ten high" because he says The Monster From Earth's End, RATING 4, is "a very good book" whereas Donovan's Brain, RATING 6, is "...a waste of time". What kind of reviewing system is it that lists "a very good book" two points below "...a waste of time"??? His expressed reason for liking or not liking a book are vague to the point of bewilderment -- for example, he says of The Martian Chronicles, (RATING 5) "I like this type of book for numerous reasons" -- but never does tell us what those "numerous reasons" are!!! His review of the DeCamp/Pratt spoofings of the worlds of Faerie and Kublai Khan leaves me with the suspicion that Vern has never heard of Spenser or Coleridge.. (it WAS Coleridge, wasn't it, that wrote "In Xanadu did Kublai Khan..etc") As for the fanzines! Vern sees them with an eye that never touched a single thing that I can remember about the titles I recognized... what I mean, I'm looking forward with anticipation to Vern's Mailing Comments. If they're anywhere as out-of-this-world as the reviews in MARTIAN BY WAYS, we'll surely have a new view of N'APA. (Chortle!)

FENRIS #4 & #5 - Dave Hulan. "In the first place," says Dave, "I am completely out of sympathy with the Roman Catholic Church on general principles. Besides disagreeing with it doctrinally, I disagree with its methods and its organization. For this reason, I am quite unwilling for my tax money to go in any way to support the teaching of Roman Catholicism. I am more than happy for the ECs to have to pay double for their schools; that's the price they pay for insisting on the right to brainwash their children from the beginning, and while I don't deny them this right I do say that if I have any say about it I'm not going to have my money used for that purpose." and "...not because I object to teaching religion in the schools but because I object to the teaching of the Roman Catholic religion at all." Here speaks the voice of religious bigotry. As such, it is completely impervious to reason, justice, or Christian charity. Most surprisingly, it comes from Dave Hulan -- an otherwise admirable fan and fellow-fuffer! Not that bigotry is so surprising -- there are lots of bigots of one kind or another in fandom - but because Dave admits his bigotry so frankly. Such honesty is the unusual aspect, and it is so pert as to be refreshing. After all, not many fans care enough about their religion to be bigoted about it -- much less admit their bigotry! Having been reared in non-Catholic Sunday-Schools myself, I can quite understand Dave's attitude. And if the teachings of the Catholic Church were what Dave thinks they are, the Catholics themselves would be the first to abjure them! Dave forgets -- or perhaps he never stopped to realize -- That a religion can be no greater than the mind and soul of the person who tries to practice it. A small mind has a small religion; an ignorant, uneducated mind has an ignorant, uneducated religion. And no matter how great a spiritual revelation may be made to a great soul, he cannot transfer the greatness to a petty, narrow-minded soul: In all the millions and millions of souls through whom Christianity -- both Protestant and Catholic -- has been transmitted for these 2000 years since Christ was on earth, there have been all kinds; large and small, petty and great. The miracle is not that abuses and distortions have occasionally crept in -- the miracle is rather that in spite of all these differences, the Truth came down to

(FENRIS, Cont'd) us with so little loss or distortion! ## Re combining SPPA with N'APA: Here I was getting set for a big, long comment on the basis of the remarks in #4, when you turn around in #5 and tell us to ignore it... However, I might as well say that I see no reason why the seven members of SPPA should not each join N'APA individually and then continue to function as an apa within an apa -- though I must admit, I see no purpose in it. ## Very good suggestion of yours to ask the MacLeans to join N'APA. I hope you've already done so, but if you haven't I think I will -- in fact, I think I'll do it right now before I forget about it! (See lettercol for reply, if any.)

July 17, 1963: RACHE 11 - Bruce Pelz. I miss the apactivity chart, but your lengthy mailing comments are a pleasant compensation. When you want to, you can do a very good job. Too bad we haven't had more of them, inasmuch as you do manage to put a very succinct point to matters which definitely need pointing out! For instance, I am glad you said, "I think it pretentious for an APA of the small size and low quality of N'APA to try and ape the big APAs." This is true in more ways than just having an annual Egeboo Poll. Egeboo Polls may be all very well for long-established apas like FAPA, where the yearly accumulation of material from its members is but a continuation of their previous activity for several years back, and the fluctuation of their position on the Poll is an indication of their relative activity or inactivity during the year. But in a swiftly-changing group like N'APA, the Poll is meaningless. Sure, it may give a momentary glow to a member passing through, but inasmuch as he's likely to be gone by the time the next Poll rolls around, what does it prove? Nothing -- merely that during the time he was a member in N'APA, he happened to be the one who was concentrating the most on that particular category... In fact, winning a "First Place" itself is meaningless -- inasmuch as there is no way to say whether he won it because he was the most gifted, or the only one who did it, or because that was the only thing he did. But even more than in the affectation of an Egeboo Poll, I think it is foolish to attempt to set up a #/L for N'APA in imitation of SAPS' & FAPA's. In FAPA, for instance, the size of the Waiting List is matter both of smug satisfaction and of genuine concern. FAPA is well (and deservedly) known as the "Elephant's Graveyard of Fandom", and fans quite rightly consider it the goal and end of their publishing career. Chances are I'd still be deadwooding there myself if I hadn't been kicked out on a technicality, and it is very rarely that a fan who fades out of FAPA ever continues in fandom as an active publisher. But this is certainly not the case in N'APA: Far from it! In N'APA, just the reverse is true. N'APA frankly admits it is the beginning of the fan-publishing career for the majority of its members. Newcomers to fan-pubbing cut their teeth, so to speak, in N'APA. They do not expect to stay there indefinitely -- in fact, they can't afford to. Fannish prestige demands they go out to wider and more challenging endeavors as soon as they are able to hold their own in general fandom. Those of us in N'APA who have already made our name in publishing can afford to stick around. We -- Kaymar and Higgs and Woolston and others like myself -- have already established ourselves as far as we're likely to in fandom. We, therefore, can relax and do as much (or as little) as we like without worrying about what effect it is having on our "prestige". (Which attitude might, in time, imbue N'APA with an "Elephant's Rest Home & Kindergarten" sort of flavor, if we overdo it!) But, considering these facts, what need does N'APA have to worry about a lack of Waiting Listers? None at all -- in fact, the quicker the neos get in, the sooner they can start their fanning. We maintain an average of about 30 members -- the arbitrary maximum of 40, merely insures that there will be no waiting period to dampen the newcomer's enthusiasm. Another thing, why imitate the other apas by setting up specifications as to what the members must discuss? Why try and limit them to stf or fantasy at this stage? The main thing they're interested in at this point is a medium of self-expression wherein they can learn to communicate their thoughts and feelings, and find others like themselves... If they can do this best by describing their stamp collection, or the Boy Scouts -- so what? They'll switch over to stf soon enough when they reach genfandom -- and in the meantime, we get acquainted. In time to come, we perhaps may even chuckle, "I knew him when.." (Tx for GIMBLE, THE ZED, & THE COVENTRIAN GAZETTE #1. Appreciated, but sorry, no comment sparked.)



June 28, 1963

Dear Mrs. Carr,

The Jun N'APA mlg has just arrived and I was enjoying GEMZINE when a thought struck me at 7.2 mi/sec. Reeling under the impact, I realized I'd neglected dropping you a card. So here it is. First, I want to thank you for sending me a copy of Merry Christmas, 1962.

(GMC: YOU'RE VERY WELCOME -- I'M ONLY SORRY IT DIDN'T ARRIVER EARLIER.)

Second, I want to correct an error in GEMZINE 4/35. My N'APA membership lapsed with the 11th Mlg, Dec. '61, not the 10th Mlg, Sep '61. I haven't bothered digging out past N'APA Yaps to check any of the others. I wouldn't have put Sonoma #7 in the Dec '61 Mlg except that I wasn't sure that I would be separated from the service in January. I was planning on dropping as soon as I got out of the service. Now I'm evilly wondering what you'll make of this card.

Best,

(GMC: THANKS FOR THE CORRECTION. I HOPE ALL MEMBERS WILL CORRECT THEIR LISTS ACCORDINGLY. IF THAT'S THE ONLY MISTAKE ON THE ROSTER, I'LL BE LUCKY. THAT WAS A DILLY OF A JOB TO DIG UP AND CORRELATE.)

/s/ Norm (Metcalf)
P.O. Box 336
Berkeley 1, Calif.

July 16, 1963

Dear Miss Carr:

I have owed you this since I received GEMZINE 4/35, but all I could have said at that time was that "I don't get it" and that isn't too complimentary. However, things have changed. All of the higher-grade sines I have read (except CRY, for some reason) have been slightly over my head. Among other things, I would need to have several back N'APA mailings to get more continuity, and I don't want them much either.

Your ideas about the Peace Corps are slightly pessimistic, to say the least. The reception we've had in countries visited speaks for itself, I should think.

(GMC: WHAT RECEPTION HAVE WE HAD -- DO YOU KNOW? I DON'T -- ALL I HAVE TO GO ON ARE THE HEAVILY PRO-SLANTED PROPAGANDA ISSUES FROM OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASES, PLUS OCCASIONAL HASTILY SUPPRESSED STORIES FROM DISGRUNTLED RETURNEES AS PUBLISHED IN THE MORE OUTSPOKEN "RIGHT WING" PAPERS. POSSIBLY IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL, ANYWAY.)

(Nate Bucklin, Cont'd)

Usually I wouldn't advocate quantity over quality, but the highly trained missionaries haven't been stepped either. The only thing that could really destroy the Peace Corps' reputation -- by being a good deal more bitter and apathetic -- would be a draft. It's helped the Army, but the Army isn't like the Peace Corps -- it hasn't done half as much constructive work, for one thing. Check the figures and tell me if I'm wrong -- I've been right so far and my head is getting me slightly overweight. Despite appearances, if I'm wrong you may have another convert!

Rebelliously,

(GMC: YOU'VE LOST ME SOMEWHERE ALONG
THE LINE -- I CAN'T FOLLOW YOUR LINE
OF REASONING. WHAT FIGURES SHOULD I
CHECK AND FOR WHAT SHOULD I CHECK THEM?
WHAT CONNECTION HAS THE ARMY WITH THE PEACE CORPS?
I'M AFRAID WE'RE TALKING AT CROSS PURPOSES...)

/s/ Nate B(ucklin)
P.O. Box 4
Dockton, Wash. 98018

July 19, 1963

Dear Gem,

I received a copy of GEMZINE 4:36 in the mail today. It had "won't you join us" checked. Gee, Gem, I knew CURSED's repro was bad - but not THAT bad! I think of me as a N'APAN, and I wish you would, too...

Fannishly,

/s/ Arnold Katz
98 Patten Blvd.,
New Hyde Park, N.Y.

July 24, 1963

Dear Gem,

Many thanks for GEMZINE which I enjoyed immensely; though I did also receive it in the N'APA mailing. This extra copy did bring me to give it a much more intense reading.

(GMC: WELL, AT LEAST THE EXTRA COPY WASN'T ALTOGETHER WASTED. BUT I GUESS THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR NOT CHECKING THE N'APA ROSTER BEFORE SENDING SAMPLE COPIES TO THE NEWLY-JOINED MEMBERS LISTED IN TNFF. LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY ELSE DEAT ME TO THE DRAW WITH BOTH YOU AND ARNOLD.)

I doubt if I will be allowed to stay on the roster long, due to ABOLITIONIST. Somewhere in the July issue of TIGHTBEAM (#20) there was a mention of fan censorship. My first N'APazine should have been. It was done with complete freedom (which did not fit into the N'APA mold); with barely literate text and a few fairly good cartoons. If I had been Fred Patten, knowing the quality strived for in the apa, I would have eliminated it because of the paranoid text; tho his objection was with the cartoons. For me, there is more offense in poor writing or quality (even in my own fast-hacked stuff) than in the word f---, even if it's printed with the REALIST'S brave 'uck'!

(GMC: YOU'LL PROBABLY GET CHEWED OUT A BIT WHERE YOU DESERVED IT; BUT I DOUBT YOU'LL BE DROPPED OFF THE ROSTER. ESPECIALLY NOT IF YOU SEE YOUR ERROR AND DON'T DO IT AGAIN.)

/s/ Phil (Roberts)
283 Hoopingarner Road
RR #1, Frenson, Mich...

Dear Gen,

25 July 1963

Thanks for Gemzine and I note your query about an inexpensive mimeo that does good work. Have you considered a Tower? On page 869 of the current fall & winter Sears catalog you'll find #3G5926N, a self-inking mimeo that does excellent work. The price is reasonable--\$72.95 plus shipping charges and tax, of course. This is the same type of machine that we have and we're very happy with it. It does excellent black ink work and with additional ink pads plus a bit of plicofilm or foil it does excellent color work. The only drawback, if you can consider it a drawback, is that one cannot use regular mimeo ink in it. We know from experience that it gums up the machine. It requires Sears' special ink for closed drum machines (catalog #3G3928 at \$1.15 per pound or it's vari-color equivalent "Kontrol-Flo". I should think they are one and the same since the Tower is actually a Vari-color machine. The advantage to this special ink is that it jells when not in use so there is minimum mess. We run off Dynatron, put the machine up for a couple of months and when we're ready to do the next issue a couple of turns of the handle liquifies the ink and we're rolling. It's a fine machine, inexpensive when compared with the automatics such as Gestetner or Rex, and will do as good a job of reproduction although it takes a bit more effort than the automatics.

Happy fanning.

Roy (Tackett
915 Green Valley Road N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87107

(GMC: THANKS, ROY -- I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF SEARS BECAUSE I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE BRAND THEY CARRY. I SEE THEY ALSO HAVE AN ELECTRIC MODEL. WORTH LOOKING INTO -- THANKS FOR A GOOD SUGGESTION.)

Aug. 2, 1963

Dear G.M.,

Glad to hear that the Bird-People are going to be used. I'm really looking forward to seeing it. Guess you'll have to type the logo, 'cause we're all out of india-ink. Lettering isn't really my best, anyhow & the space is so small that I think the typing would look best in any case.

Fred took apart my big 'od minio-scope for to put a window in the boat - so I've nothing to do illos on for you (I even have some lovely green stencils, boo hoo.) Soon as we get the scope fixed (ha ha) I'll send you some. Meantime, if you'd still like some just drop a card - I'd love to have you use some of my work.

Hope we can join N'APA one of these days.

Pat (MacLean)

(GMC: WELL, I'M GLAD I FOUND A SPOT TO USE YOUR ILLO THAT WILL DO IT JUSTICE! I FEEL GUILTY TO HAVE HELD IT SO LONG IN MY BACKLOG, BUT THE SHORT-RUN GZS I'VE BEEN DOING HARDLY SEEMED WORTHY OF IT. THIS WAY, ON TIGHTBEAM #21, THERE WILL BE 400 COPIES INSTEAD OF A MEASLY 75 OR 100.)

Dear G.M.,

Thanks for your note to Pat inviting us to join the N'APA. I'd get a kick out of it, all right, and while I tend to get awfully serious when I get a typer in front of me, I think I could get off a piece from time to time that would be of interest to some of the others and provoke a bit of discussion. Trouble is, we haven't anything in the way of hecto or mimeo equipment and couldn't afford to have a 'zine run off by a commercial outfit; and on top of that, the fishing season is keeping me jumping. Wouldn't have time for this letter at all except for having had a lot of mechanical trouble with the boat and having to knock off to get that straightened out. Hope to buy a mimeo if we make any money fishing this year, but we'll just have to wait and see about that.

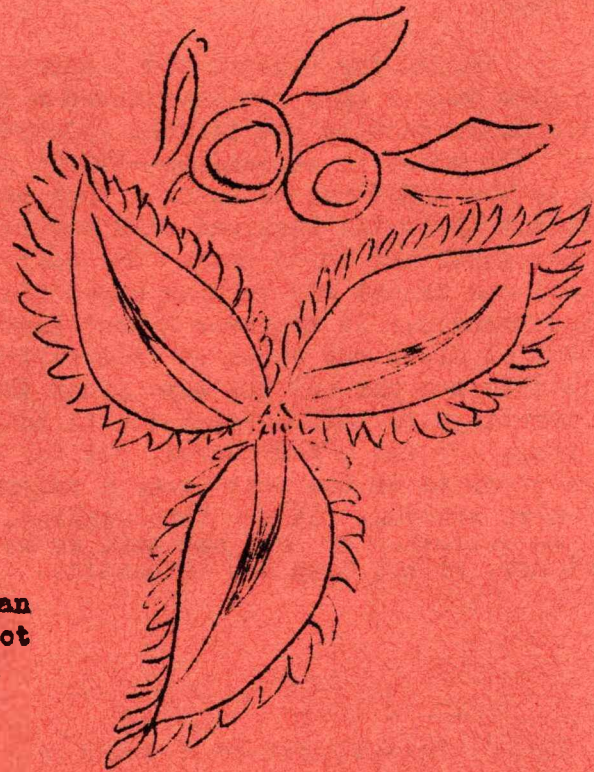
Best,

James MacLean
P.O.Box 401, Anacortes, Wash.

(GMC: HERE'S HOPING...)

BAITBOX

There seems to be building up among some elements of N'APA a weird sort of Death-wish which is determined on destroying us. As far back as the 15th Mailing we find Jack Harness' full page of denouncements as to the uselessness of N'APA (Six Pages In Search Of A Title). Then in the 16th Mailing, this is followed up with more deregations, such as, for instance, Gary Liebowitz having the gall to put in his CANTICLE #2, "...the slowly dying N'APA" -- when he just was joining the club, f'r gosh sakes! He obviously couldn't know a thing about the apa from first hand knowledge when that was his first mailing as a member! Now, in this mailing, we have Bruce Pelz' apparently deadpan demand that we take a vote as to whether or not we should drop the apa altogether! This kind of ill-wishing reminds me of the old saying. "I can take care of my enemies myself, but God save me from my friends!"

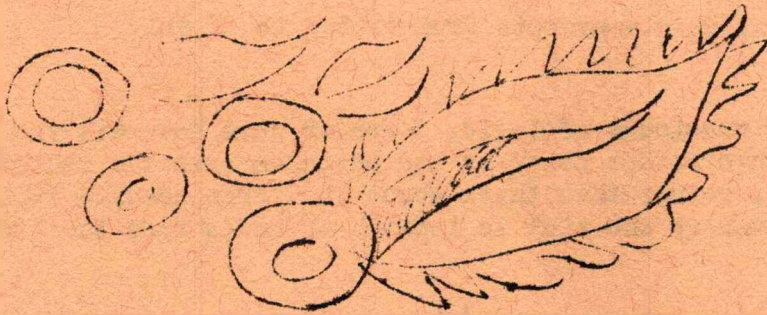


Not that such a vote would mean anything, even if a majority voted in favor of it. This apa is an NSF activity under the direction of the NSF Directorate, and it is up to the Directorate to decide whether or not it should be disbanded -- not up to any so-called "Demand For Referendum" to decide. That is a piece of presumptuousness that I am astonished the OE even permitted to be circulated privately, much less actually put it in the OO.

But I am getting slightly irked at these repeated slams at a nice, healthy little apa that does not deserve them. N'APA is in a very healthy condition for a group that is so comparatively young among apas. I doubt very much that a mailing-by-mailing comparison of the first 17 Mailings of SAPS and FAPA would stand up so well -- much less some of smaller groups such as OMPA. As is clearly shown by the following breakdown, N'APA has averaged well over 200 pages per mailing ever since the beginning (238 pages, in fact); has averaged 32 members, with over 25 different titles in each Mailing... that is the average. In the 17th Mailing we had 33 members, 22 titles, and 258 pages already.. with prospect of postmailings to come. What's "dying" about that?

Mg.	Date	Editor	Members	Titles	Pages
#1	June 1959:	Terwilleger, OE	16	14	109
"	#2, Sept 1959:		26	" 20	" 183
"	#3, Dec 1959:		29	" 24	" 166
"	#4, Mar 1960:		34	" 32	" 322
"	#5, June 1960:	Dietz, OE (2 spou-)	42	" 37	" 292
"	#6, Sept 1960:	(1 ses)	40	" 23	" 263
"	#7, Dec 1960:	(1 ")	38	" 20	" 210
"	#8, Mar 1961:	(1 ")	38	" 24	" 194
"	#9, June 1961:	Harness, OE (1 ")	34	" 25	" 274
"	10, Sept 1961:		36	" 29	" 255
"	11, Dec 1961:		36	" 27	" 206
"	12, Mar 1962:	Lichtman, OE:	34	" 30	" 285
"	13, June 1962:		30	" 30	" 360
"	14, Sept 1962:		32	" 28	" 230
"	15, Dec 1962:		32	" 21	" 152
"	16, Mar 1963:	Patten, OE:	29	" 25	" 275
"	17, June 1963:		33	" 22	" 258

(Coops... end of page, end of mag. With a TIGHTBEAM to pub, this is all I've time for. C'bye for now -- see you in the Mailing? GM Carr, 5519 Ballard NW, Seattle 7, Wash.)



BAITBOX CONTINUED — N'APAs
please staple this to GZ 4:37.

(Non and Ex-Neffers, please
disregard the following unless
you happen to be interested in
behind-the-scenes NSF matters.)

TIGHTBOX #21 is all mimeo'd now, except for a few last minute pages, and I see there's still time for me to add a few more pages to GAZING. Which is nice, because it gives me a chance to bring up a couple of points in connection with TB.

First, as of this writing, there is still no editor for TB #22. It is not fair that this should be left dangling to the last minute like this, and it is not fair to the Proxy to leave the burden on him of scrambling around every time to find someone who will do it. And it is not fair to either the membership or the TB editors that no schedule is set up in advance so we will know what to expect. It seems to me that we here in N'APA are in a position to do something about this. We have enough dupers and enough publishers that we could see to it that a schedule of TIGHTBOX editors, complete with alternates in case of emergency, could be set up for a whole year in advance. This is a matter I think we should discuss, don't you?

Secondly, it is my understanding that TB exists as a lettercol for TMTF. It is supposed to be a place where fans can contact the membership at large when they have something to say: perhaps to express an opinion on club policy, or ask about club services, or pass on a bit of information, or just introduce themselves. But it is not supposed to be a place where fans can indulge in long LOCs on the previous TB, or engage in leisurely discussions, etc. That sort of thing is what we do in N'APA. It is an entirely different kind of fanac, and it is not fair to either the club treasury or to the other members, to take up the pages of TB with this kind of material. Oh, sure — I know it is more interesting to read. But that is what makes apas so much fun. Any LOC over a page in length — unless it is on a subject of NSF policy — really doesn't belong in TIGHTBOX. It belongs in N'APA.

To illustrate my point, I am publishing herewith some of these apa-type letters that were crowded out of TB for lack of room. And when I say "crowded out", it means literally, because some of them were already on stencil and the pages numbered! As you can see, these are written by natural-born apas who write mailing comments as instinctively as a fish swims. They BELONG in N'APA — and I suspect the only reason they aren't here already (if they aren't, by now) is because it never occurred to them. Most people think of N'APA in terms of duplicating equipment... but that is only part of it. The real charm of an apa is the bulletproof quality, the opportunity for discussion, for argument, for exchange of ideas. For that we need dupers, yes — but it doesn't matter who has the equipment, just so the comments are pubbed.

So that brings up my final idea: a collaboration arrangement between writers and publishers. There are probably many fans in NSF who would enjoy membership in N'APA if they had any way of getting their comments published. Probably just as many as there are new members who have just joined N'APA and are looking for something to publish. These neophyte publishers have equipment, energy, enthusiasm — in short, everything needed to publish a good fanzine except good material. In desperation, some have filled up pages with their own prattling — with deplorable results! They don't pub crudzines on purpose — only because they can't get good material to publish. So I suggest that here is an opportunity for a new kind of NSF activity: to get the members with dupers but no material, in touch with members who have plenty to say but no dupers to publish it on! Any comments here?

(Mike Shupp, Verona, Ohio - excerpts from letter to TB #21)

Judi Beatty Sephton: Despite your knowledge of logic, I wonder just how well you actually use it. It looks like you'd rather point at and psychoanalyse the membership letter from the club officers, rather than think about it. From reading TB it should be obvious that there are members who wish to impeach Al Lewis from the Directorate.

But as the letter said, an impeachment vote, successful or not, is damaging to a Neffer's character -- and to the club in general. After all, read your history book. The attempted impeachment of President Johnson rates as one of the most shameful aspects of American history, right up there with the scandal and corruption of the Grant Administration. Even though Johnson was only brought to trial in the Senate, and not impeached.

But as a member of the NFFP, this petition does have a bearing on your life as a fan. After all, what is genfandom going to think of a club that impeaches a Director? But also, just what type of investigation do you want? What has Lewis done that needs investigating? Served ably on the Directorate, and been editor of TNFF and compiled and pubbed the Index To The Science Fiction Magazines, 1961 and 1962. This needs investigation?

Dave Locke: Funny, but I always thought of myself as a neo, till I'd been in fandom for a year or so. And it didn't bother me, what little info I'd picked up before joining had referred to anyone joining fandom, new to it, and so on, as a "neo". But this point you brought up has bothered me.

And how in hell would you like to dig through over a year and a half of accumulated correspondence to see if you were referred to as a neo or as a new fan...

Well, good luck with this pre-campaign campaigning. I can see me trying it -- elder fan Shupp sitting at his typer in 2013 typing his 300th letter to TB, never elected yet, but still game...

Well there's the tape bureau. Of course, perhaps N'APA (and whatever happened to calling it NEAPA?) need not worry, just as long there will be orniapans.

I've missed a few issues, but in the past year, the only really memorable item I've seen in GALAXY was Vance's THE DRAGON MASTERS. And that was August of 1962.

Frank Hiller: Everyone seems to be praising Seth Johnson, so I might as well try to make it unanimous. Besides his Fanzine Clearing House, he puts a great deal of time and effort into the round robins -- which is a damn sight harder than it looks. I've tried to start a few: one flopped, and it was entirely my fault, I admit; The other one just vanished into the mails and never did ~~come~~ back for some reason. Any one that can successfully start over a hundred robins deserves everybody's praise. And the robins are important. It took me about a year to start writing for fmz and I wouldn't have been ready then if I hadn't have been in enough robins to learn about keeping my sentences straight, and extrapolating.

Gil Lamont: Congratulations and welcome to fandom.

Scott Kutina: Let's see now. I have six issues of the new large format ANALOG. During that time there have been five articles, two serials, thirteen novelettes and short novels, and twelve short stories. And I've yet to see one I didn't like.

Sturgeon's Law comes in here, and maybe very little of it is good reading from the standpoint of literature, but this is the type of stf I like and read. So far none of it has seemed out and dried.

I'll agree that Amalfi should rank as a hero, but it seems rather odd that no one has pointed out another hero in Blish's Citvs in Flight series: Senator Bliss Waggoner of Alaska, brought out in Year 2018!

Like you, I started into stf with Tom Corbett, Space Patrol, and Captain Video and then got into the libraries. But my first novel was Clarke's The City And The Stars and my second was one of the vanVogtian epics. I was ten years old at the time, and I must have created a lot of trouble for the librarians by sneaking over to the adult fiction department, picking out a few books and sneaking them back to the juvey section and blending them in with some kiddy books and checking out the whole nation.

David K. Patrick: Strange, but I'm in fandom both to further myself and to have fun, and I yet to be bothered or have my time wasted by people who want solely to have fun. After all, what is the point in doing something if you don't have fun?

This small group bit again: Did it ever occur to you that you and some other new fen (if the word 'neo' is so obnoxious to you) that you have been a small group that does a lot of writing to TB and taking up space? I've been in fandom a year more than you have, but this is only my second letter in twenty months, whereas you have already written two, in about eight months.

But what's wrong with having to search for your proper place in fandom? I'm still looking, and enjoying the looking to boot. But it doesn't bother me — after all, it takes a person about twenty years to find a niche in mundane life, and more if you go to college. Yet are you going to gripe about this? Should I shed tears because newborn babies are not given a job, a place in life the minute the cord is cut?

I always thought the entire National Fantasy Fan Federation was a service, and I am profoundly grateful to the people who have for twenty-one years kept the club running; and to all the many people who have helped me in fandom — which has been everyone in fandom I have written to, down to the neos.

However, to point out other services, look at the latest TNFF. Welcomittee, Tape Bureau, Story Contest, Recruiting Bureau, Publications Bureau, Collector's Bureaus, Follow-Up and Information and Overseas Bureaus. With the MSS Bureau, that makes ten. So you are definitely mistaken.

(ED. NOTE: AND DON'T FORGET THE N3F ROOM AT CONS, THE ROUND ROBINS, THE CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU FOR PEN PALS, N'APA, THE PROJECT ART SHOW, WHICH RAPIDLY OUTGREW ITS ORIGINAL N3F SPONSORSHIP AND NOW FUNCTIONS AS ONE OF THE MAJOR FANNISH ACHIEVEMENTS ON ITS OWN.)

Granted that you may get odd looks and uncomplimentary comments from others for reading stf and being a fan. But you must expect this from the uninformed. After all, you might try listening and discussing classical music, or passing up ball games to go to the library. And still the clods will call you a nut. But are you going to demand that the library and the orchestras improve their image? The only arguments you could use on such people are reasoning, and such people have their own preconceived notions, and reason will not work on them.

(End of Mike Shupp excerpt)

(Excerpta from George Fergus, 3825 E. 160th St., Cleveland, O. 44111)

Oh, woe is me. What burdens modern science puts upon the backs of science fiction fans. I am, of course, referring to the ghastly truth about Venus and Mars. Now, Venus really isn't too bad a blow, though we really didn't expect it to be all of 600° or more in temperature; but Mars! Mars with an atmosphere of reddish-brown nitric oxide. Are the sands of Mars red, or are they white, yellow, or even sands at all? How can we describe the sky? Alma Hill has suggested that it is pink, but this, of course, cannot be. If the atmosphere were entirely colorless, the sky would be a dark purple or blue as it looks from high in Earth's atmosphere. Would red and

rown superimposed on this make the sky purple, violet, magenta, or what? And this applies only to sky as ours would be blue. Would visibility be low and distant objects obscured by red haze? Or would native Martians not see the red color at all as humans cannot see the infra-red? I don't know, but does anyone have any ideas on the subject?

No doubt Burroughs Bibliophiles will make the excuse that John Carter lived in a parallel universe where Mars has a real oxygen atmosphere and is inhabited. Well, it's a good excuse.... And incidentally, ACE will do no more of TARZAN or BARSOOM series than already, but will print everything else by Burroughs. BALLANTINE will do all TARZAN & BARSOOM but no more than that.

A satire on the conventional horror film has been due for quite some time, and while THE RAVEN wasn't as good as it could have been, the idea is good.

This reminds me of something. Why does anyone like this season's TWILIGHT ZONE? There were only about 4 good shows out of all of them. Most seem like lengthened half-hour productions. None of the better sf writers contribute to the program; the only writer you can expect good stuff from is Serling himself. Find anything entertaining about some guy peering into a doll house every day and winding up there himself. Or about the peculiar fellow who designs toys and has some odd adventure with a group of little kids that makes no sense. Or that corny witch-werewolf story.... TWILIGHT ZONE is capable of better things. You were wondering why people sneer when they the word science fiction? I think I'll go back to FLASH GORDON, if you please.

Gil Lamont: Heroes are necessarily from good books, but good books can have no good heroes among their characters. Generally a good hero must have two qualities: he must be heroic (i.e., an extraordinarily capable man with an indomitable will who conquers his foes right and left and comes out on top in the end) and he must be memorable (i.e. have a unique personality with which one can empathize and which one remembers.

Now Heinlein's characters are always memorable, but hardly ever heroic. Thus the best of books won't have heroes worth a damn. The hero who wins by stumbling around isn't heroic at all, but you like him so much you forget that. The books with the supermen are often just the opposite. Heroic deeds but stereotyped characters. In fact, many heroes have personalities so close to those of the stereotypes that they are thought of as stereotyped heroes while they are not. It is often only after many stories have been written that the little differences that make these heroes what they are become evident, and that is why the series are so much more represented than the single novels on the Heroes' Poll. It takes either brilliant writing or long acquaintance to separate a true hero from a stereotype in the reader's mind. (Incidentally, the list of heroes should run to 20 or 25 to include all the good ones.)

I'll give a little encouragement to anyone who cannot think of any more villains besides Charlane, Fu Manchu, and Marc DuQuesne. Has anyone read J.W. Campbell's short story WHO GOES THERE? Lovecraft and company have thought up a few good ogres. In FOUNDATION & EMPIRE the Mule was a pretty tough opponent. And from van Vogt's VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE you might be able to pick out a good BEM or two. Use the noggin, fellas, there should be plenty more. (end Fergus exerpt.)

(Excerpt from Phil Roberts, RC#1, Bronson, Mich. letter to TB #21)
Is it more heroic to conquer, or master, your own weak resources, or to simply overcome fear? A child who takes his first step after being crippled from a car accident? Big Hairy Deal who clobbers some Dirty Jap all over an island? Buck Bradbury who seals up the cylinders and gets the space ship off the ground just before the attack of Swamp, the Belching Monster? There is the self mastery, lack of fear, and the performing of the technical skill. Which is the hero? Oh, the Belching Monster. Hmmm. The only hero I can think of right now is Jesus Christ...the only true hero. And whether he is a stf hero is a matter best left to the personal judgment and amount of reverence. Which leads me to ask a general question of all TIGHTBEAM readers: What is your reaction to the Holy Bible's Book of Revelations?

(ED. NOTE: SORRY TO BREAK IN HERE, BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT TO A QUANDARY. USUALLY I CAN SPOT A TYPO AS QUICKLY AS THE NEXT FELLOW, AND I DO NOT HESITATE TO CORRECT OBVIOUS ERRORS. BUT WHEN I AM IN DOUBT AS TO THE WRITER'S MEANING (FOR ALL I KNOW, HE MAY BE PERPETRATING AN ESOTERIC PUN OVER MY HEAD, OR REFERRING TO ARCANA BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MY KNOWLEDGE!), I PREFER TO PASS THE BUCK WITH AN EDITORIAL (SIC). NOT TO CALL ATTENTION TO A MISPELLING OR MAKE SARCASTIC POINT OF SOME BLUNDER, BUT MERELY AS ADMISSION OF MY OWN INABILITY TO READ THE WRITER'S MEANING AT THIS POINT. HOWEVER, IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH, I'M NOT EVEN DOING THAT -- JUST PRINTING IT VERBATIM AND LETTING YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT HE SAYS.)

As a Christian, I am forced to BELIEVE it, yet if I may be so frank a freethinker, it seems to be the delirious writing of a mad, insanely sadistic mind, which so agrivates the responsive chords of my thinges of pacifism, as to lead me to ask the reactions of fellow fans to it. It's a deep reading, but fantsttic after the half-way-mark. Game?

Democracy simply means "rule by the people," so why is it that the only true rule by the people can come with one man's lone existence on an island? This would truly be an autocracy! It would also be anarchy and/or monarchy, depending on your perspective. I can plainly see your point, but your terms are a bit confused, Gil. You probably mean that the only possibility of true freedom (common word) is possible this way. But what a sacrifice for an ideal!

The Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church is a state run propaganda machine in Hungary, and most other Communist countries, just as the Roman Catholic Church was in Nazi Germany; and last year's revelations of Communist infiltrations into this country's protestant churches was no great shock, not really. Am I a blasphemer for noting this? I don't think so. (Read "My New Order" a collection of Adolph Hitler's speeches, available in any good local or school library; makes constant references to the state support of the RC, and shows the developement of the strict control.)

SCOTT KUTINA: I guess that such great fanzines as XERO and COMIC ART have proven comix fans to be more than deddering idiots on the edge of their small mental ledge, just as I hope SMUDGE and HOCHAH and SPOOF and (with hopeful prayer) latter (sic) issues of JACK HIGH removed this aura from satire fandom. There is no set way to enter fandom, and there shouldn't be a condemnation of any prelude to fandom. Kid's minds, including my own, are constantly changing. Yesterday I read FU, CRACKED, DONALD DUCK COMICS, ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN, and FATE...today I avidly read PLAYBOY, REALIST, ESQUIRE, NEW REPUBLIC, ATLANTIC MONTHLY, and THE REPORTER.

On fan recruiting of the outside world: An Aunt of mine who was written to by a fellow fan is now convinced that the NSF is a Communist Front Organization, that said fan is a 40 year old man (rather than his true age of 16) using the identity of a little boy to pervert young writers' minds to help forward the internal Communist menace; that I am a Communist, and that fanspeak is a Communistic menace to pervert the English language -- which is #2 on the Communist program. This is no satire or exaggeration, and I swear it! She is also a member of the John Birch Soc.

(end of Phil Roberts' excerpt).

Now, in the next two letters, I want to show you another bad feature of loading a TIGHTBEAM editor with overlong letters which he/she is forced to "cut" in order to squeeze as many replies as possible into TB and yet stay within -- or nearly within -- the budget. If you will look in TIGHTBEAM #21 you will see, on the bottom of page 15, a paragraph of what purports to be a letter from James Maclean. Also, on page 19, a paragraph from Phil Kohn of Israel. But take a look at the letters these men really sent to TB and you will see what got left out! It is not fair to anybody -- neither the men who wrote the letters, nor the poor editors who spent sleepless nights trying to figure out the best thing to do about them, nor to the people who are mentioned in the letters -- that so much really GOOD comment should be wasted. But what can an editor do? TB is on a limited budget (which most editors exceed and have to make up the balance out of their own pocket, anyway) and it is up to the editor to try and do the best he/she can. I can tell you it hurts a conscientious editor to throw away well-written or interesting material -- but what else is there to do? This type of writing belongs in a discussionsine, not in a semi-official club publication. And it is the kind of material which should be financed by the writer, not by the readers... (I hasten to add, before the loud screams of anguish arise, "...in my opinion." Please note, dear readers, I am speaking as a private individual, one, only, member of N3F. I am not an officer of N3F, neither do I speak for the N3F Administration. This is just my opinion, as the result of my TIGHTBEAM experience.) Now -- on to the letters:

Dear G&M,

P.O.Box 401, Anacortes, Wash.

This is mainly a TB letter, but ..(see E&E for GZ comments). On to the Tight-beam comments:

AL ANDRIUSKEVICIUS: Interesting name, that; mind my asking what nationality it is? If the last Anglo-Scottish war hadn't been won by the wrong side and the Gaelic language and its traditional system of spelling been so vigorously discouraged, I could get away with spelling my own last name MacGilleSheathain, its original and proper form. Heaving a sigh for the glories of the past, I'll get on to the contents of your letter -- mostly to lay about me with the ancestral shillelagh (actually the ancestral weapon was the ar-tuagh or Lochaber axe, but what am I going to accomplish threatening people with an ar-tuagh? Shillelagh they know about). First off, your reasons for disagreeing with Dave's comments re Dr. Ladonko are awfully, just awfully bad reasons; make Dave's position on the subject seem positively attractive, tho I disagree with him myself -- goes to prove something, no doubt. Briefly, I think one should have a bit more, say, esthetic involvement with the interior decoration of his mind than to clutter it up with beliefs in anything and everything that happen to be easier to manage than belief in an "invisible, omniscient, superior being", as a more or less randomly chosen standard. Besides, look at all the work involved; have to do regular exercises like the White Queen, get at least half-a-dozen impossible things believed each morning before breakfast to make much of a dent in the supply. And the burden of proof in a matter rests not with the skeptic but with the person demanding belief in his own peculiar proposition or brain-storm always; only thing is, as I see it, a thoughtful person has an obligation to himself to try to arrive at the most accurate practical picture of the world in which he lives, its basic structure, probable trends, etc., on the principal that all knowledge hangs together in a pattern and a person can never tell when a particular part of the pattern may be of practical significance to himself, his family, his country, his race, or some such area of concern. The old Arisian 'visualization of the Cosmic All', you know, which while impossible for a finite mind to achieve in full is still worth taking some sort of determined stab at more or less for its own sake. This is just a personal attitude, of course, hard to make seem palatable to a lot of people, but I think one could work up a pretty good argument for its long range utility. Back to the subject, I think practical application is a pretty good excuse. At the present stage of human knowledge there are fantastic, almost inconceivable quantities of data a person can obtain; when

gathering data to form one's world-picture (which in most areas must be merely an amateur and very part-time activity), one must obviously pick and choose quite fastidiously unless one's onto a good system for immortality. Priority must go to the most basic data in any area and to those promising the largest practical impact on one's world, and a subject which seems unlikely to have any practical significance in the foreseeable future is of little interest unless it has a large effect on the basic structure of the world-view with corresponding practical implications in other areas which would otherwise be overlooked. My argument re Dave's position is that available data on psi have implications for the overall world-view all out of proportion to their immediate practical significance, and that when disregarded they leave so large and basic a blind area that it's bound to have some detrimental effect on one's ability to choose the optimum course of action in all circumstances. You could argue that in our present nice, safe, easy, uneventful world you don't have to be right often enuf to worry about that sort of thing; maybe so. But then again...

Commenting on my letter, you wonder about my use of "pragmatic knowledge" and "inductive logic". The former isn't very important since my meaning is clear, but I'll say that the big Webster's has, under 'Pragmatic', "4. practical; matter-of-fact; pragmatism." ('Pragmatism' is "Of, pertaining to, or concerned with the practice or the practical side of anything; practical, matter-of-fact."); this is plain enuf; the definition having to do with philosophy, "6. Philos. Of or pertaining to pragmatism, especially to the philosophic pragmatism of Pierce and James; dealing with practical values or consequences" is not only the last of the lot but specifically lumps Pierce and James together as being valid exponents of the pragmatism to which the word can refer. Usage #4, the one I intended, carries with it a certain connotation of #6 for most people, which is why I used that word rather than 'practical' -- and it looks to me like the position that 'pragmatism' and hence 'pragmatic' does or should apply properly only to Pierce's notions would be a very hard one to defend. James called his ideas 'pragmatism' and so does the dictionary; James is a helluva lot more influential than Pierce and has come to be identified with 'pragmatism' in ordinary thinking to Pierce's exclusion. Usage is usage, and to get across one must use one's readers' and listeners' definitions, not purely private ones.

Now, to "inductive logic"; I notice Dave Hulan said "please define" too, so I guess I'd better explain the situation. I admit it's something not many people are apt to have run into, having, despite its broad importance, been pretty much confined to 'the literature'. You should have stopped after asking 'what is it?', since your next two sentences are flat out wrong; logic is not solely deductive -- just the logic with which most people become acquainted. Logic is (Funk & Wagnall here) "The science of correct and accurate thinking; ... the science or art of reasoning"; it should be hard to deny that both deduction and induction ("The process of inferring general conclusions from particular cases") are forms of thinking and reasoning; trouble has been that until recently only deductive reasoning has proven amenable to thorough enuf analysis, formalization, and symbolization to deserve the name 'science', so inductive reasoning, the subject of much speculation and discussion, has been considered only potentially, if that, a field of logic. This began changing in the twenties or before, when the burgeoning of the field of mathematical statistics and its obviously vital connection with the question of induction began compelling the attention of mathematical logicians to the subject, which had hitherto been left to the tender mercies of philosophers like your Pierce (cf. Collected Papers of Charles Sanders Pierce, Vol. II, Cambridge, Mass., 1932). Although there is still much disagreement amongst prologicians on fairly important points of theory and a hard core of mathematicians with a nodding acquaintance with mathematical logic still claiming it's all nonsense and inductive logic can never be adequately formalized, I think one can justifiably speak today of 'straightforward inductive logic'. Systems have been worked out in sufficient detail (there are quite a number of different systems of deductive logic, you know, so a plurality of approaches can't be held to vitiate the work done on induction) and there is sufficient agreement on the basic principles to establish that the field does now in fact exist and to make it look most probably indeed that its progress and development will parallel that of deductive logic after Boole's initial 'breakthrough' -- tho at a much faster rate, in keeping with the modern pace of development in all fields of

knowledge. It seems entirely reasonable to expect the hardware stage -- computers operating inductively -- to be reached before the century's out.

If you're interested enuff to crack a book or two on the subject, just to see what it's all about, Carnap's Logical Foundations of Probability (by Rudolf Carnap, Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1950) is a fine place to start -- in fact, the best I know of. Let me quote the opening words of his preface, just to dispell any lingering doubts about the reality of inductive logic; "This book presents a new approach to the old problem of induction and probability. The theory here developed is characterized by the following basic conceptions: (1) all inductive reasoning, in the wide sense of nondeductive or non-demonstrative reasoning, is reasoning in terms of probability; (2) hence inductive logic, the theory of the principles of inductive reasoning, is the same as probability logic; (3) the concept of probability on which inductive logic is to be based is a logical relation between two statements or propositions; it is the degree of confirmation of a hypothesis (or conclusion) on the basis of some given evidence (or premises); (4) the so-called frequency concept of probability, as used in statistical investigations, is an important scientific concept in its own right, but is not suitable as the basic concept of inductive logic; (5) all principles and theorems of inductive logic are analytic; (6) hence the validity of inductive reasoning is not dependent on any synthetic presuppositions like the much debated principle of the uniformity of the universe." You'll need to know something about standard deductive mathematical logic to follow him in any detail thru the bulk of the book, but a good idea of the drift of his arguments and the content of inductive logic can be got by just reading the English and skipping the symbology.

You're quite right in saying "...if it is a genuine induction, it cannot yield conclusions with necessity or certainty", of course; inductive logic yields conclusions with a numerically specifiable probability-of-correctness, and stf writers have been tossing around computers that routinely do that for quite a while. Looks like said writers have every reason to pat themselves on the back for spotting a likely direction of progress, since I doubt considerably that most of them have been any more aware of the development of formal inductive logic than you or Dave.

FRANKLIN HILLER: Second place cheerfully granted and you've got a good point there. The essential safety rules for hypnotism are considerably more complex than those for a hunting rifle, much less obvious-on-the-face-of-it, and a lot harder to get any dependable information on. Learning enuff about hypnosis to be certain one's not going to do any damage with it is a vastly bigger job than learning the same amount about guns. But I think the principle emerges unchanged from the transformation; in this country we are willing to pay a very big price indeed for the freedom to drive private cars -- a price of about 40,000 men, women and innocent little children (to get sickening about it) killed each year. Having done quite a bit of both, I can say positively that once you know what you're doing in each case hypnotism is far safer than driving. Most of the danger lies in assuming that there is no danger and that no effort need be made to find out what precautions are necessary and then carefully apply them -- as is the case also with guns and cars!

Best, /s/ JAMES F. M^{ac}LEAN
(P.O. Box 401, Anacortes, Wash.)

(Back to GMC again: If any of you readers feel inclined to reply to this letter please write directly to MacLean, or at least send him a carbon copy of your comments in case your letter doesn't get printed! Because if any of you think I am going to take on myself the burden of publishing a discussion that I don't even understand -- and which I doubt very much even one tenth of my other readers can understand (much less the nearly-400 members of NSF at which the above remarks were directed) -- you are mistaken. This type of discussion is far over the head of the average reader of either GEMZINE or TIGHTBEAM. In fact, I doubt there are more than a dozen Neffers put together that are even able to follow it, let alone justify the cost of publishing.)

Phil Kohn,
Beth Krinaki, Yokneam, Israel.

DEAR GEM !

No, my cut up prose isn't my poetry. I do write poetry, about once every 3 years, but only when something hits me where I live. When I do, it is at any rate better stuff than what YOU choose to call poetry-if there is any, its YOURS.

Hope this hits you before TB deadline, parts of this letter are for TB and I hope you get them in, the rest treat as you like. Today 12.8., I got both TB 20 and your gemzine. Your spell is still on, I really haven't got the time I'm using for this...

A right to a job means that a job should be waiting for all who are able and willing. What right has a housewife to sneer at unemployed coalminers, or construction workers who (Yes, that includes me) have proved their willingness and ability to work beyond anything you can imagine!

Today's unemployment is technological. 90% of the people get rich and comfortable from a technology they do not understand or contribute to in any way - why should 5 or ten percent suffer? Why should not the rest of you cargo-cultists, you praisers of god or art or anything except science and technology be taxed out of some of your undeserved technological gains to support and re-train the unemployed? Why should life be a reverse lottery, with little for those who do the inventing and developing, lots for the general public -and soul destruction for an entirely innocent part of that public?

As to the bums, they are mostly a medical problem - and unfortunately the REAL bums that get government employment and invent those new forms and things to be filled in, of which you write with such feeling (But what do you DO about those things? Have you ever been a political candidate? Or worked for one?)

Incidentally, you have seen nothing yet. Wait till the government really starts using labor saving electronics... and business people have to FREED those computers.... and the computers will send you monthly queries as to why your returns, or any answer in them, deviate from the statistically expectable....

So the point is, the world DOES owe everyone a job-ACCORDING and proportional to his ability and willingness, but, anyhow, SOME job.

As to your meaning, which is the right to work without belonging to an union- I'll sign this, PROVIDED there is work for all, and consequently reasonable bargaining power for unorganized labor, BUT NOT OTHERWISE. Incidentally, with regret, since I've suffered much from unions- so much I suspect one Adolf Hitler got to be what he was after running into some (Jewish) T.U. officials in Vienna. (Told you we are an exaggerated people, didnt I?)

Can I have the Address of Jack Harness, that is if he's the dianetics guy - I dont see him on the roster ?!

No, Clay, government work DOESNT add jobs. Tax experts are skilled people, and the misemployment of skilled people means LESS jobs for the unskilled... case in point: I could easier find work as electricians helper (instead of loading trucks, as I do at the moment) if it wasn't for a shortage of grade A and B electricians... and I know the situation is similar in the US, so taking skilled people for useless work means less jobs all round.

(GMC: BUT PHIL, TAX EXPERTS ARE NOT SKILLED AS ELECTRICIANS, THEY ARE SKILLED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS. NO MATTER HOW MANY OR HOW FEW PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS ARE EMPLOYED ON THE 'USELESS WORK' OF BOOKKEEPING FOR TAX PURPOSES, IT DOES NOT AFFECT THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AMONG ELECTRICIANS. THE JOBS ARE NOT INTERCHANGEABLE. SO HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT MORE ACCOUNTANTS MAKES LESS WORK AMONG ELECTRICIANS AND LESS OPPORTUNITY FOR ELECTRICIANS HELPERS?)

Now to TB: I cant help having been deadwood (except for correspondence) most of the time, its the Address. However, I'm slowly turning RELUCTANT deadwood, so I want to ask you people outright if I have anything to look for in this club. I read Analog - even Astounding in the glorious forties- mostly for the fact, editorials and letters, tolerating the fiction, particularly now that it is all space opera on a higher literary plane. STP is to me a department of science, namely, the extrapolation of the

least secure but most exciting scientific hypotheses. To most of you it seems to be a form of entertainment which you like for it being less responsible than good, lifelike fiction. I too oppose most of JWCs lately exposed ideas - but you seem to attack him for being involved with ideas at all, instead of getting on with the job of grinding out fairy stories "about love and death" it is typical that the author of that formula forgets about work - or even knowledge - being among the great themes and motivations. James MacLean excepted, you seem to be interested either in fiction as entertainment, or just in togetherness, or in senseless fanaticism, such as Seth Johnson's onetime proposal to me to take part in a "round the world robin" - never mind whether we have anything to say to each other. I seem to be unable to get any response to my ideas or proposals. The only serious political discussion I've been able to develop is with GmC, and her opinions are so outrageous I ask myself again and again whether she believes it or is just hoaxing me - honest, now, GEM, we German speaking Jews are rather famous for our easily pulled legs... do I still have any leg left to pull?

(PHIL, I GUESS THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN FIND OUT IS TO SPROUT A SENSE OF HUMOR AND USE IT FOR SPECTACLES TO EXAMINE YOURSELF TO SEE IF YOU HAVE OR NOT!)

You people seem to believe in the importance of politeness, form... I'm a combination of inventor and hod-carrier, and as crude and involved as both - do I belong? Do any more of you have opinions? Care about things, and THINK about them? Doesn't any one else like arguments?

Please write, but PLEASE no greeting postcards or equivalent, for politeness sake. A feud can be a joy, but to open an envelope and find it holds a greeting card is like biting a wormy apple. Now to comment on TB 20:

Membership proposal: Since most costs to the club are concerned with mail and stationary, and since no economies of scale are involved, I propose "Joint, papersaving memberships, not just for married couples but for groups in one locality, if they want it. The price would be, perhaps, 2 dollars per address plus 1.20 per additional copy, plus 50¢ per member above the number of copies. I'm not insisting on any particular price, just so that the club would make a little more from saving mail and paper, on those members.

Now this sacrilege business: Would anyone publish a story (which I half believe to be actual truth) depicting the Catholic church as an extraterrestrial conspiracy to keep earth down until the space marines arrive and enslave us for good? They teach meekness and submission, suppress sex (the sexless are manageable, like Ants, Bees, Steers) breed for stupidity (Clerical celibacy)....

As I see it, the real danger of the late "liberality" in the church (Incidentally, why did Roncalli die so suspiciously fast?)

(WHEN A MAN HAS A STOMACH CANCER FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS AND LIES ON HIS DEATHBED FOR ALMOST A WEEK IN HIS TERMINAL AGONY, IT DOESN'T LOOK "SUSPICIOUSLY FAST" TO ME. I'D SAY, INSTEAD, IT LOOKED HEARTBREAKINGLY SLOW.)

is that the Church may succeed in debauching the Communist Party (NO sirs, I don't like that party any better than you do, but there's someone I like worse) (Quoting this para without the above parenthesis is criminal libel.)

On psi: I'm semi sceptical, but that's not the point. The point is that last time a similar step into the unknown was taken, was with X and Bequerell rays (Radio activity) ALL the early investigators died of cancer. All the world is under the threat of H bombs, as an effect of their efforts. With psi, there is an ancient tradition of danger... are you so called believers in psi really so sure there's nothing to your parlor games that you propose to ignore all that? You seem to think that the world must, somehow, somewhere, hold a perfect, FOOLPROOF wish fulfillment mechanism for the irresponsible, and that's why you drive cars carelessly, elect something for nothing governments, read fantasy and dabble in ESP. The basis of science is the ability to accept uncertainty. The purpose of religion is to provide "certainty" to those who CANNOT accept uncertainty. That's why religion (including atheism and Marxism) cannot fit with science.

Andrious...cy: True, deductive logic is inconclusive, since it works from analogy. Unfortunately, Deductive logic is EMPTY since, without the use of analogy, no premises can ever be constructed.

As to the bylaws: Gentlemen of the directorate, your resolutions and bylaws are binding on NO ONE unless published in TNFF. Running the club does not mean making by-laws, or laying down binding rules, but doing SPECIFIC things. You can lay down rules for yourself, in practice, but no such rule has legal force when challenged UNLESS IT WAS PUBLISHED! For your information, even the government does not allow itself (Military business excepted) to make laws, or bylaws, or legally binding rules (as distinct from ORDERS) without publishing them SOMEPLACE. So your search is unnecessary. More: If you had just published those rules, they would now be in force. But since you are publishing them as being in force already, when they are not, their present legality is thereby put into question again. Is there no lawyer or law student in the whole bunch that a laborer has to tell you this? (I distinctly understood you to have been searching not only TNFF, but various interdirectorate correspondence-if you've been restricting yourself to TNFF, my sincere apologies)

Bravo Judy, even if she's out me off her list! That counterpetition was decidedly murky !!

Dave Patrick: The public be damned. The Image be double damned. Why should we consider the public - that is the ignorants with sufficient gall to put their noses of disapproval into our business? As to the Image, you NEVER will convince the noncreative that creation is legal and respectable. By trying to make us try you can do no more than spread conformism and castrate fandom for the convenience of Wylies "Mom". You and others seem, in fact, to be suggesting that we should NOT be discussing anything more controversial than rocket ships.

Hypnotism: Have just read "The Manchurian Candidate". The trouble is, the Author overlooks the real uses of hypnotism for conquest. Its hard to make a man into a robot-if its possible at all. But its easy to hypnotize him into the belief that people with certain signal manerisms can be absolutely trusted and ought to be assisted and promoted..and that others, with some barely noticeable smell (which you can drop onto their pants, say,) are commies, or homo, or what not.

You can hypnotize a man to the effect that a revolver is a water pistol, and completely harmless,-or to the effect that a rise in interest rates has nothing to do with unemployment. You can best hypnotize people if you are a society dentist...or Osteopath!! You can also hypnotize a man that another man is his wife, and that he's at home..... I believe that such tactics are being used by all powers now, and that this is the modern form of war.

And yet - maybe not all that modern. Sheik Abdullahs Hashashin...or take Brainwashing, that "horrible communist invention". Take it and tell me please just one thing: What is it they do to grown men, that oldfashioned religious type schools dont do to little kids every day of the week, for years and years...

(DRUG THEM, FOR ONE THING)

and you want me to respect, if not share their beliefs!

Ceterum censeo, cant ya bums list the next but one TB editor !!

So 4 men per woman is good enough for you, you reverse moslim, Gem !!

/s/ P. Kohn

PHIL KOHN, BETH KRINSKI, YOKNEAM, ISRAEL

(End of Phil Kohn's letter)

Well, there you have it -- and a darn sight different from the way it appears in TIGHTBEAM (for which I am sorry as far as James & Phil are concerned) and those of you who feel like replying to Phil can take it from here. Remember, any long LOCs had better have a carbon copy to the people in question, because I don't intend to get caught in the middle of the fireworks as publisher! Remember, too, that Phil thrives on explosives in his mail, but a greeting card affects him like biting a wormy apple!

Incidentally, I've asked both James MacLean and Phil Kohn to join N'APA. If any body is willing to cooperate by pubbing their stuff for them, please write and offer. (Write to them, that is, see if we can't get these fine potential apans into N'APA. I can't do it myself, because I just took on the job for another good member with no mimeo - Seth Johnson. Especially you neo-pubbers. Here's your chance for material...)

And then, of course -- although there is nothing we can do about them for obvious reasons -- there are the inevitable letters from new members who, having just joined both of them at the same time, do not yet realize that N'APA is to NFFF as 40 is to 400 (N'APA:N3F::40:400 to express it mathematically.. not that either group has reached the 40:400 figure, but we can hope, can't we?) and address to the other 9/10th of non-apan Neffers, letters which would interest only the 1/10th of the membership which happen to belong to the smaller group. Like so:

(Glenn Primm, Jr.)

cOo

August 15, 1963

I just joined this club, so I guess you'd call me a neo. I consider myself a neo, so why not call me one? What a stupid argument.

I paid out my good cash, expecting to join a nice friendly group, and what do I find? Whisper-campaigns, knives-in-the-backs, et al. This is all fun reading, sure, but who the hell cares, really?

I'd like to say a few words about my zine, which will be in the next mailing of N'APA. This wasn't really a rush job, even if it looks like it. For one thing, my typist makes almost as many mistakes as I do, so there's one point against the zine. Second, most of my zine is going to be taken up with fiction, written by myself and other fan interested in writing. The only reason I put these mailing comments in the zine is because I wanted to see what kind of reaction I am going to get ("I'll tell that snot-nosed brat a thing or two"). Some of the mc's are complimentary, some are derogatory. I tend to write with a third-person type approach, and that is probably why the mc's will read like a New Yorker shoot-down. If you are the type of person that takes offense at anything, especially from neofen fresh from the bookstore, don't read them. On the other hand, if you like to be jeered at, go ahead.

My zine you might call a slip-shot, not because I try to put out a crudzine, but because I am new to fandom. I guess I'm really trying to make a big splash with a piece of cork, my zine is so full of holes. When you write to me, don't tell me you thought that I crooked the story, or that I should give up writing, like a couple of gonfen did; send me some decent comment on my zine, something that I can read and say, "Yes, here is where I goofed. The next ish will be a little bit better because I won't throw in such-and-such..." You see?

I read in some zine somewhere that N'APA is an apa for the neofen; that members should encourage and try to help them. Here's your big chance. My zine, by the way, is Spiral, and it circulates to general fandom also.

Here's hoping,

/s/ Glenn Primm, jr.

28 Burnside St., Nashua, New Hampshire

cOo

Today, August 29, TB is all run except for the page with the name of the next editor. And that page I'm holding open until the last minute in hopes there will be a next editor. So far, poor Don Francon hasn't been able to come up with one! What's the matter with you pubbers, anyway! Do you expect the Prexy to come crawling on his knees before you'll do your share of the N3F pubbing-load? (I can smirk virtuously at the rest of you loafers, having just finished my first such chore for N3F!!!)

But I guess this just about winds up GEMZINE 4/37, and now I'll hasten to the Postoffice and get it in the mail, so it'll be waiting for Fred when he gets back from DISCON.... Sigh. The first few eager-beaver fans probably are starting to straggle into the Con hotel about now, back in Washington DC. Sure would have been nice to have been one of them. Well, kids, have a happy time for me and don't forget to look in at the N3F Room for a cuppa cawfee on the house.

So long till the Mlg.

RECEIVED SEP 28 1963