

Published for the 67th Distribution of APA L, 27 January 1966, by Bruce Pelz, who is in need of some 30-hour days and 10-day weeks -- as usual. IncuNebulous Publication 439, already yet so soon...

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THE PURE FUED AND BUG ACT:

By now, most of you are familiar with the Scientological Tone Scale of emotion. After all, Jack Harness (and others) have written it up for the past umpty-ump years. But there is another Tone Scale which is hardly ever mentioned, and I think it is at least as useful, if not more useful, in fandom. This is the Firr-O'Hay Scale of Mental Antagonism. Viewed from the standpoint of the person attacking, rather than from that of the victim, it gives the onlookers a chance to evaluate the degree of antagonism and comment on it. The attacker and the victim can then evaluate their own reactions in terms of what the sideliners felt. If the sideline reaction averaged out an attack of 7, and the attacker was meaning an attack of 4, he evidently went too far. Or, if the sideliners average 5 and the victim felt an attack of 8, he is evidently overreacting. It is true that this dependency on finding out what the uninvolved bystanders think has resulted in the scale becoming known as the Faraway Scale (a result of the slurring of Firr-O'Hay, originally), but its effectiveness is not the less for that.

The Firr-O'Hay Scale, in brief, runs as follows:

- 0.5 To josh - a very lighthearted attack, obviously non-serious, with the victim also in a lighthearted frame of mind
- 0.8 To rib
- 1.0 To kid
- 2.0 To twit
- 2.5 To rag
- 3.0 To needle
- 4.0 To bait
- 5.0 To bug - the half-way point. Beginning here, the attacks are of a nature designed to insure getting a reaction (adverse and of counterattack nature, of course).
- 6.0 To razz
- 7.0 To heckle
- 8.0 To annoy
- 9.0 To provoke
- 10.0 To anger - this upper limit is seldom reached with a first attack, but is built up to with continued efforts.

It should be borne in mind that a few other interpolations are possible, and that the Firr-O'Hay Scale is merely a general outline for referral in comments.

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The cover of D66 was originally used on my SAPSzine for the 74th Mailing (January 1966), and that's a pretty rapid transition to APA L -- less than a week. Anyway, the illustration and quote are from "Shadows on the Road" by Robert E. Howard:

Nial of Ulster, welcome home!  
 What saw you on the road to Rome? -  
 Legions thronging the fertile plains?  
 Shouting hordes of the country folk  
 With the harvest heaped in their groaning wains?

Shepherds piping under the oak?  
Laurel chaplet and purple cloak?  
Smokes of the feasting coiled on high?  
Meadows and fields of rich, ripe green  
Lazing under a cobalt sky?  
Brown little villages sleeping between?  
What saw you on the road to Rome?  
"Crimson tracks in the blackened loam,  
"Skeleton trees and a blasted plain,  
"A heap of skulls and a child insane  
"Ruin and wreck and the reek of pain  
"On the wrack of the road to Rome."

There are two more verses. The second, beginning "Nial, what saw you in Rome?-" includes the line "'A woman in chains and filthy rags,'" which accounts for the rest of the illustration. Of late, Dian has been doing a lot of Howard and Eddison illustration, and will probably be doing a lot more before she gets off the kick.

### D I R E C T C U R R E N T S

It should be pointed out that entry 24. A Historyzine is not from Who Else, but from Guess Who. As the latter is not a member, he doesn't get a Distribution, of course, but I should hate to see Who Else's zines downgraded by accidental inclusion of inferior material.

TED WHITE: A very nice write-up of the flying experience -- it does sound like a delightful Xmas present indeed.

Being an OE isn't totally thankless, but you reach a point of diminishing returns. Five years as SAPS OE has set a record which I doubt anyone else will even want to try to equal. I'd like to run a five-year hitch in FAPA too, if I can -- after all, it's only two more years after the current one. I'll settle for only 1 or two in N'APA, I think -- depends on how I like it after a year. And, of course, I don't know of anyone being OE of three APAs at the same time before. If you like to set weird records, OEing is one way to do it.

IF Lin Carter can't get his Oz book published professionally, how about getting the stencils corrected by Tricon? Then, IF it is all right with you and with Bjo (who has first call but will probably not have time to do the illos for the foreseeable future), send the MS out here and Dian can illo it. It's a lot of IFs, but I've been interested in getting that thing in print since you mentioned it back before FAPA 100.

FRED HOLLANDER: To some extent, there is still a problem for writers to get their material in one genzine or another -- but only when the genzines involved are the top ones, where the editors are finicky about their material. The neogenzines do indeed have to "flatter, persuade and cajole" their material from writers. And to some extent, again, even the best zines do a fair amount of persuading -- I've got Pete Weston heckling me for an article on fanzine collecting, and I haven't done anything for genzines in yearsandyears. Mostly, the APA-vs-Genzine problem is one of Occam's Razor. A neowriter, having tried to get something into, say, YANDRO, and failed, decides it's a lot easier to dump it into one of his APAs. He could send it to NEOFANCRUD, the Genzine which has been begging for material all over the place, but who wants to see his Deathless Writing there? And, of course, part of it is laziness: APAs take stencil stuff fine, whereas submission to a Genzine usually calls for second-drafting.

The last line to "Good King Sauerkraut" is from The Pogo Papers, page 85 (1953, Simon & Schuster of course).

Braaaack to you and your computer! I hear some character in Reseda won the KHJ "Batman" telephone contest.

JUNE KONIGSBERG: I become a back-room boy only on occasion -- said occasion being when the program is Too Much For Me, as "The Musquite Kid Rides Again" was. It was a lot of fun doing that film, but seeing it, especially with the lousy soundtrack, gives me the cold robbies these days.

Joe Btfsplk, the World's Worst Jinx, is exactly who/what I had in mind as the reality behind the hoax of DK. (The little black cloud was trapped in the phoney head.)

DWAIN KAISER: I've apparently underestimated either you or your stupidity; you couldn't possibly be so gauche as to suggest that an artist send you art so she can get a zine with someone else's "ghreat" artwork! You have got to be putting us on... .

I have no particular plans for "finishing" "The Way of Life," so there are no plans for complete publication when it is "done." After all, what is the ending of TV's "Peyton Place"?

There are at least two people with both Satellite and Acolyte cards signed properly.

WHO ELSE: I assume everyone recognized the various "hooks" being used?

GREGG WOLFORD: Don't worry about NV getting down to 2 pages once in a while. Though I don't bother telling the Official Collator, I consider all Pelzstuff in APA L as part of NV -- including LASFUSS and WHAT TO DO, even. So I figure I have 4 pages minimum these days, and usually five or six.

"Tom Lehrer Revisited" ? Never heard of it. The first album was called "Songs by Tom Lehrer," the second had two titles, depending on whether you wanted the spoken commentaries by Lehrer and the audience reaction or not. If you did, you got "An Evening Wasted With Tom Lehrer"; if you didn't, the same songs are on "More of Tom Lehrer." The third album, of course, is "That was the Year That Was."

TOM DUPREE: I'd suggest improving the legibility; the Official Collator would be justified in throwing this out.

GREG SHAW: It is probably not worth the effort to try convincing you that the New Year's Party broke up early because fractional groups like the ITR drew the people away from the central party, that the card players alternated cards and conversation to a point where the game had to be changed as there were not enough for Bourree, so we'll just make the statements and let the subject go. I do agree with your statement to Phil Salin that, if the ITR people had been there they would have been talking to themselves/each other anyway. But I don't see that this is any advertisement for having the ITR at any party. Boiled down, your comments state that you don't want to talk to anybody but ITR people, yet you expect the rest of LASFS to keep the party going for 3 or 4 days so it will be there when you want to look in on it after all else is done. We'll have to see if we can't do better for you next time, I guess.

There is no "rest" of the article on Linn; Stanbery, who wrote it, never did any more on the thing.

As for making nuisances of yourselves, I suppose it's a matter of opinion, I guess -- has anyone asked either the hotel or museum people?

# The Way of Life 17

by Edward J. Dean

"I decided to come over and find out how your convention was this past weekend," said Corky, as she followed the greyhaired woman into the living room. "Curs was pretty bad." As the other sat quietly in a straight-backed wooden chair with zodiacal carvings on the back, Corky lowered herself gently into an antique armchair across from her and waited.

"We did have quite a good time at West Beach, and I picked up several things that were new to me besides seeing a lot of old friends and acquaintances again. I always look forward to the convention, but still I'm glad it doesn't come more often than it does. Next year it will be on the West Coast, in Brad Town, so perhaps I won't go.

"But you can't make me believe you came all the way out here just to hear about my convention -- you don't even believe in Astrology. So what happened over the weekend you want to tell me about, my dear?"

"Oh -- it was a terrible weekend, Hetty! It started out Friday night as a lot of fun, but Saturday I had an argument with Leo and everything went wrong from there. Allen Van Clyne was there, and you know I've always liked him, he's so good looking, Well, after my argument with Leo -- he accused me of sleeping with Allen! -- after the argument, ..."

"You made a pass, Van Clyne caught it, and now you're sorry about it but you can't get rid of him," finished the older woman. She shook her head. "You must get your headstrongness from your father's side; goodness knows your mother and I are more cautious about reacting to things."

"You're almost right," replied Corky, "but I'm not worried about getting rid of him. We had a Scene at the movies last night and I walked out on him. He didn't even try to follow me, so I guess he won't be hanging around too much.

"My problem is more what I ought to do to make it up to the rest of the fans -- especially Leo -- for throwing them out early yesterday and generally being antisocial since Saturday. They're going to be thinking I'm a stupid little bitch, and while I can't help my stature and I admit the stupidity in this instance... ." She let the sentence hang.

"When you've been around fandom for as long as I have, my dear, you will learn that fans' good opinions and fans' bad opinions are very transcendental, and you have only to wait and they will change, like a traffic light. But I know opinions of others are more important when you are young, so let's see..." She took a deck of cards from the table in front of her, shuffled it, and began turning cards, as Corky watched intently. Finally Hettie looked up.

"It does not look good. Apologizing will do no good, and telling people exactly what happened will do harm. Besides, I don't need the cards to tell you that fans would think you were covering up for something if you tried another party as an atonement. Best let things go and ride out any storm. As for Leo, tell him you've broken with Van Clyne after getting an infatuation out of your system, and you should be able to get back on friendly terms with him again. And if Van Clyne does come around again, come see me and I'll help you get rid of him. Some very interesting material on Mr. Allen Van Clyne has past through the fanzines over the years, and I'm sure I can find it if I have to." She smiled nastily at Corky, and the latter, remembering the few issues of Hettie's Cromlech zine she had read, felt sure her aunt could indeed handle the situation if it arose

"Now, to change the subject, when do your parents get back?"

"Next Tuesday, so I have less than a week of Carefree Girlish Gaiety before they get back and pack me off somewhere unfannish!"