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 Bruce Pelz, who thinks there are about five to many APAs. IncNeb 401.

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COSTUME COMMENTS CONTINUED: I find I must change the costume plans for next year, inasmuch as a LonCon Masquerade winner has already done an excellent job as Nick van Rijn (I haven't seen pictures of it yet, but I'm taking Al Lewis's word for its excellence). Maybe after another few years I'll try it, but at this close a date, comparisons would be detrimental to both efforts. So we'll see what can be done with the costume of Chun the Unavoidable next year.

A few words on costume selection might be in order here. First and foremost, whether or not you pick a character from an actual story, make sure your costume has a title. Make it up yourself if you have to -- many a prizewinner has done so (e.g., Grania Davidson's "Space Madam," or Jock Root, who went to DisCon as his own Hyborian Legion character.) Try to find out if the character has been done before, and if it has, with what result. Once a costume is done well -- especially if it is done well enough to win a prize -- there is little room for yours to improve on it in originality or accuracy, so you might as well try something else. And for Ghu's sake, no more Draculas or Frankenstein monsters or wolfmen unless you have a really new twist! (One Dracula even had real fangs -- he had worked as an assistant to a dental technician, and made false fangs to fit like a bridgework. Anyone remember who and at which con?)

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

GREG SHAW: No, the Fellowship of the Ring is not doing much of anything but collecting money from people and issuing cards. And not much of that, either, as I explain to anyone stupid enough to want a membership card (a buck each) just what he isn't getting. The Fellowship has managed 3 issues of I PALANTIR in 5 years; pretty poor average, but there is a lamentable lack of material. We may manage another during the coming year. Or, Maybe Not. So what would you suggest doing instead of the present inaction?

BARRY GOLD: He who is a BNF to himself is only a Big Noisy Fugghead.

DICK LUPOFF: I liked most of The Dark World. Braaaackkk to you, Sir!

ELLERNS: Thanks for a fun NonCon -- even if I did lose all kinds of money at miscellaneous card games to various people. It was still a fun time, and I'll look forward to another party in the Manor, to which I have been accustomed.

FRED HOLLANDER: The Program Committee will keep the idea of a slide show of LASFS Outings in mind, but right now it is full up with programs. More than a couple programs a month get to be Too Much, and the club stultifies, expecting someone to entertain it all the time and not being satisfied with much of anything. So it will have to wait a while.

I'm glad you put through the "FORTRAN!" bit -- I saw a copy at UCLA, in the Engineering Dept. and was wondering how to swipe it.

MILT STEVENS: You mention being very disappointed, after reading the FANCYC, to find out that a lot of fannish witticisms are only a string of quotes. I can see your point, but perhaps this is a good place to introduce the concept of the Burbee Joke. This is a joke that is patently unhumorous when told. But it is told anyway. It is told again...and again...and again! By this time, just the fact that it is being told makes the situation humorous, and the joke becomes a success. The same thing happens with a catchphrase, though these have a habit of popping up again so often as to be run into the ground. An example of the Run-Into-The-Ground ones being "...That's not too many." Or "It certainly is a wonderful thing." You might bear this process in mind when you hear the same things repeated over again.

Actually I have been surprised at the number of Burbee Jokes that operate outside fandom. My inlaws use them all the time, even. Rather unnerving, the first time I realized it.

DAVE VAN ARNAM: You and the other NYconoclasts will have a busy time between now and Tricon, getting ready to bid. Okay, go to it. I was pledged to support Syracuse in '66, but I'm open-minded about '67. Mainly, I want to know about hotel and banquet costs, plus masquerade arrangements. Have fun.

TOM GILBERT: Now that the summer is almost gone, what happened to the indexes and to Ellick's TAFF Report, all of which you were going to do during the otherwise-unoccupied months of summer? Are you already burned out?

