

H E T    C E N T R A L    N O 4

Published for the 1670th Meeting of IASFS, 14 August 1969, by Bruce Pelz, 1534 15th St., Santa Monica, CA 90404 (213-451-4180). Incubation Publication 696.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE WORST FANDOM HALL OF INFAMY took a spurt upward this week. Standings are now:

\$9.33 - John Boardman	\$3.23 - Ted White	\$1.23 - David Gerrold
\$5.21 - Alva Rogers	\$2.25 - Bill Donaho	\$1.12 - Jim Sanders
\$4.87 - Jerry Pournelle	\$2.23 - Arnie Katz	\$1.10 - Fred Phillips
\$4.78 - Bjo Trimble	\$1.85 - J. Ben Stark	\$1.06 - Lee Klingstein
\$4.11 - Lee Sapiro	\$1.83 - Harlan Ellison	\$1.06 - Ed Wood
\$3.55 - Jim Williams	\$1.41 - Redd Boggs	\$1.03 - Bob Schoenfeld

Vote early and often!

8:11 That's what happens when I start my zine on Sunday. The mail brought \$4.99 more for Worst fandom. The changes make the lineup Boardman, Williams (\$5.54), Rogers, Pournelle, Trimble, Sapiro (\$4.61), White, Donaho, Katz, Jack Chalker (\$2.00), Stark, Ellison, Phillips (\$1.60), Boggs, Gerrold, Sanders, Klingstein, Wood, & Schoenfeld. Chalker is a worthy addition to the list.

NOTES OF APPRECIATION: To David Gerrold, for a situation handled well.  
To Barney Bernard, Jim Canfield, and all sorts of other people, for donating vast quantities of stuff for Building Fund auction. We have such a flood right now that we'll have several weeks of outright sales of some of the material.

NOTES OF DEPRECIATION: To Walt Daugherty for Martyrdom above and beyond the call of anything. How a man can figure that the Board meetings are being changed around just to pick on him, when all but 2 of the 10 have been steadfastly on the first Sunday of the month, is beyond me. I also find it difficult to feel sorry for someone whose claim to being picked on is the fact that the Board took over his Anniversary Dinner Project, since (1) He said he would be out of town during the last part of October, and couldn't run the Dinner; (2) he was asked by letter whether there was some time several weeks either side of the Anniversary when he could run such a dinner, and no reply was received; (3) he has been to only two Board meetings in person and one more via a tape recording -- and on only one of the remaining seven did he let the Board know he wouldn't be able to attend.

OTHER NOTES: Dan Goodman, the motto of the Little Men doesn't have a comma. It is present tense, not imperative: "Little Men stand close."

Doug Finley: Communication without pretension is an excellent idea and a fine goal. Problem: what is a pretension? Is it something "put on" for the occasion by the communicator? Is it an attitude which the communicatee considers unmerited by the communicator (as an attitude of moral dignity effected by someone of a known checkered past)? In the latter case, the communicator may truly believe heesh is not "putting on" the attitude.

We started talking about "masks" a couple weeks ago -- or levels of personality, if you prefer the phrase. What is a pretension when someone has several masks and is unsure how far down the final one may be? I'll put it personally, if you prefer: is it pretention for me to be the hardnose, insisting on all monies being paid, being nasty about deadbeats, etc. -- or is it pretention for me to sit at a ValSFA meeting

trying to talk to a bunch of ValSFans who are stoned out of their minds (and a few of whom I would be delighted to see juggled for a while), trying to figure out where their heads actually are -- and whether there is any chance of their heads being returned again? What is pretention?

And is pretention always to be avoided? Do you accept no conditions where pretention might be "for the greater good"? I think it is demonstrable that pretention is necessary to peace -- whether on a small scale like LASFS, or a large scale like the world. Archie the cockroach had the right idea: "Honesty is the best policy, Boss, but it is not profitable unless kept strictly under control."

I suppose it wouldn't pay to try resolving your inconsistencies, but some ought to be pointed out, anyway: Communication without pretention versus putting on an act until it becomes a part of you. And your advice to Ruth to "remember you're important, and act like you are, and people will think far better of you" must be tempered with the advice that one should start such acting unobtrusively, or, rather than thinking better of you, people will dislike you even more, for being a pushy braggart. There must be substance behind the act of importance, for people to agree with you that you are important -- to anyone but yourself. John Donne, over 300 years ago, gave out the "No man is an Island, intire of itself" bit; I should like to point out, however, that some people do quite well as peninsulas, and the importance of people, while undeniable, is relative.

John Hertz: I can give you a couple reasons why people seem to have to be anti-drug, but I would strongly advise against trying to fit the reasons to any specific cases. (1): Some people are afraid, both of drugs and of themselves falling into the use of drugs if drugs are prevalent. (2) Some people are joiners to the extent that if they can't - for some reason, any reason - join the heads, they must join the anti-heads. Group support. I advise against specific application of these reasons because there is probably no one who falls into one category completely. Most have some non-compulsive rationale as part of their reason for being anti-head/anti-drug.

Roger Scime: You should attend LASFS meetings. We might eventually get another Quorum.

June Moffatt: By the suggested way of determining which life of one's allotted nine is currently underway, I am running #2 - 8/11/1936. Is this good? Hmmm... 8/15/1933 is 3; 8/29/1942 is 8; 8/5/1943 is 3; 8/13/1950 is 9 (Last chance for you, Stokes!); and that's all the August Assemblage I can find full dates for easily. Dunno what it proves....

Dwain Kaiser: The Great Grimy Ghu help completist APA L collectors. Your TC's are so screwed up said completists will go bonkers trying to figure out if they have a complete, incomplete, or ultracomplete copy. Example: you list HOUR GLASS 13½ and 14½ right before DE JEUVES36. What is actually there is HOUR GLASS 14 (1 p.) and A FANZINE FOR DAVID GERROLD No.1. HOURGLASS 13½/14½ was a non-L zine. Tsk...

I do appreciate getting a copy of L, though, so thanks, DK.

Drew Sanders: I may have to get together with TAJ and Scribe, and present you with the John Koning Award. Before someone else does so calling it something else.

Yes, there is an anecdote of locking someone in a closet and blowing up the house at 2AM. Maybe Digby will even tell you about it. It is an anecdote that was Hatched instead of being invented or born.

T.E.D. - THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR, which originated "Shield of Umor" in its allegorical story. Reprinting T.E.D. might be a good idea one of these days... .

As I've already told you, Floyd Collins wasn't in Dark Shadows but in Dank Caves. Of course, he could have become a vampire, I suppose -- a Cave Bat Vampire,