

MINAC 13-A



HEY WALTER!
WHAT'S NEW?



AN EDITORIAL
STATEMENT BY
GERBER & WHITE

PACIFICON PROGRESS REPORT: The drive to smear Walter Breen has been joined by efforts, both public and behind the scenes, of several West Coast fans to blackball Walter from the FAPA waiting list, on which he presently holds the #6 position. In the meantime, the campaign has been expanded locally and in private correspondence to include Marion Bradley in the attack. (The charges against Marion are so disgustingly foul that we would not repeat them, here or elsewhere. Both of us have first-hand

knowledge that these charges are completely false, as do dozens of other people.) Marion and Walter plan to be married this coming year; and while Donaho claimed to be sympathetic towards Marion in the BOONDOGGLE, now that he realizes Marion knows Walter better than he does he has evidently decided that her reputation must go, too.

Reports have it that Donaho and company are planning legal prosecution against Breen—on unspecified charges—and have been trying to force him to take the matter to court by circulating their libellous BREEN BOONDOGGLE to well over a hundred fans. To date, the only positive reaction towards the campaign we know of has come from F. M. Busby. Buz, perhaps oversold on his role as Big Pappy of fandom, has joined the campaign with his full support. This apparently consists in part of turning over his entire correspondence file with Walter to the Committee. Other actions by Buz have been hinted at. Buz told us, in a letter dated February 10, "At the present time I feel so sorry for poor damn Walter that I am not going to hit him directly. But I do think that he is a 'moral crud' or A Shit, as has been stated in letters rec'd here, and I can't see why people shouldn't kick him in the head." It's nice to know that Buz rationalizes his actions before he takes them. Leaves him that much healthier after he's done them, we hope.

We refuse to speculate on the Con Committee's motivations; they are flatly unbelievable. The new actions being taken against those closest to Walter, even in the light of what has already been done, are simply shocking.

Busby's actions are less surprising, though just as unfortunate. He has told people before of his opinions on homosexuality, which once consisted of feeling justified in slugging anyone he suspected, and of his long battle to overcome these negative feelings. He felt proud enough of overcoming his hangup, but it's not surprising to find him reverting to type under pressure. (He considers Walter a homosexual, one supposes.) The fact that Buz has, over the years, actively encouraged the notion that he makes an excellent repository for rumors, gossip, and private revelations now allows him to abuse the fact. We are thoroughly disgusted with F. M. Busby, of whom we'd thought better before now. (You can now expect to see a fiery editorial in the next CRY—which will not be sent to us—denouncing us on a dozen different counts, action Busby threatened a while back when we refused to eat humble pie for him on the TAFF business by swearing the Sun circles the Earth.)

The situation as it exists is now this. The charges of Walter Breen's being a child molester have been proven false. Among those who have testified in Walter's defense are those parents whose children Walter was accused of molesting in the BOONDOGGLE. (Our apologies to those parents; we had assumed they were among those joining Donaho in the original complaints, and had taken Donaho's statements about their behavior at face value. Apparently, much or all of the BOONDOGGLE is a personal effusion by Donaho, and very little of it can be taken at face value.) Walter's alleged homosexuality—which has not noticeably interfered with his success with several attractive females we know—cannot be considered an issue; homosexuals are hardly new to fandom.

The remaining stand taken by those who have chosen to back the Committee's actions is that Walter might prey upon young teen or sub-teen male fans. That in four years of con attendance he has not done so is a fact which does not faze these people. He might. (For that matter, an over-zealous house detective might always shoot some member of the con committee. Better get rid of them, too.) Walter is shortly to marry Marion Bradley, with whom he is quite happy. It is hard for us to

imagine his feeling a pressing need to pursue some young monster fan (for whom he generally feels the same contempt most of us do) so soon after his honeymoon—and in any case, he has not once indicated any desire to do this.

On the other hand, if these stalwart Protectors of Fandom are sincere in their efforts, they might consider a certain New York fan who has attended cons for the last ten or more years, and about whom several young fans (among them the gaffiated Marty Fleischman, who used to live in the same neighborhood) tell hair-raising stories. The man, a generally genial con-fan, has never been involved in any official scandal of this sort, but his proclivities are known to the Pacificon Committee, some of the members of which know him personally.

It is a little hard to believe that there is any honesty in the campaign which culminated in the revocation of Walter Breen's Pacificon membership, and despite some years' former friendship with Donaho, we can only declare our complete and utter disgust with the episode and the hypocrites responsible. Or, as one former fan said recently, "The old Nunnery crowd is doing all this? They must be crazy!"

LETTERS

WALTER BREEN: You could have made your case against the committee several orders of magnitude stronger. Alva Rogers specifically denied the Donaho charge that I was "in bed with" his son. I was sitting on the bed. The whole barricade story is a fabrication, and was denied at the kangaroo court hearing. The Rogers kids themselves could be made to testify in court that at no time did I have anything to do with them sexually. (I had other interests in them—they're coin fans, very brilliant and articulate.)

The witnesses in my favor at that hearing consisted of parents of all the kids allegedly molested! This is one of the strongest arguments in my favor. There had never been a complaint from any kid or any parent. Donaho has had to admit this.

I never trained Poopsie to do anything: disrobing, etc., were her own idea, nor was I the only person she did this game with.

The "campaign" against Sid Rogers is pure malarkey. I think it stems from the mention of her in FANAC 94 interpolated into Stiles's con report.

Donaho deliberately (?) misunderstood an ancient joke, on the business of my being able to prove myself sane.

In fact, the BOONDOGGLE is a concoction of outright fabrications and lies, together with some Berkeley Stories and a great many instances of viciously slanted exaggerations and distortions.

TOM PERRY: Much egoboo to you for having the courage to print the news about the Breen exclusion act. I've already written the con committee demanding an explanation and Walter's reinstatement, with the apologies he deserves. To show where fans stand on this, I suggest a write-in campaign for Breen as fan poll committee member, with the suggestion that Donaho be one of those not voted for. Since the results will be known this spring, they might indicate to the con committee where fandom's loyalties lie. My own answer to Eney's strange open question (who would have thought that Degler's ostracization was still such a burning issue?) was that the only grounds for cutting someone out of fandom on a group basis is the spreading of malicious libels. The law can protect society, including fandom, from most of the other evils he cites, including "child molestation" if any. That criterion for eliminating someone from fandom, which I feel is an excellent one, seems to suggest an application in our current scene. -lgj

RICK SNEARY: I feel that the Committee has the right, as has any hobby or social organization, to expell anyone, for any reason they feel like. In such a case as this, a person doesn't have to be guilty of anything. If they want to expell all members who have blue eyes and a mole on their right thigh, I might object, but I would have to agree they had the right.

I do not feel that any committee has the right to judge and expell anyone from Fandom. And in this case I prefer to believe that they have not tried. It may be the intent, but I don't read it that way, and I hope that it won't be read that way. What fans feel about Walter is a personal matter for each fan. I don't think that Fandom can have an opinion.

I think you are overly pessimistic about their ability to affect Walter. Few active fans, I am sure, had not heard one or more rumors about Walter before this, and most have seemingly gone on liking him or disliking him, as they saw fit. You should be aware of how little harm a sneering attack has on a really popular fan (that is, one who makes fans easily, and is a likeable type). Take the case of Dave Kyle. Could anyone have been more thoroughly dishonored in fandom? And yet he has been more popular in the past couple of years than at any time in my life in fandom. What I'm trying to say is, defend Walter, sure, but don't sell fandom short. The clear heads, or the more indifferent ones, won't care. The more mud that is stirred up, the longer it will take to settle.

I have never disliked Walter, but I have never liked him either. I disagreed with many of his views, but not to any heated extent. As with many people, I found it more rewarding to spend my time with people I liked even more. As the world is so full of a number of Really Good People, why spend time with something less? One of the Really Good People in my world has been Marion Zimmer Bradley. I've known Astra Zimmer for about eighteen years, and an as fond of her as it is respectable to be. She is one whose happiness means a great deal to me. Thus I will do a good deal to help her in these trying times. Unfortunately there is little I can do. One thing, though, is to stick by her and Walter.

Normally, I would have stayed out of the feud. I wouldn't miss Breen any more than I'd miss Martin...but I wouldn't do anything to get rid of them. Under the present conditions, I have written Walter and Marion my rather wisky-washy support. So, really guys, I'm on your side too. (You hadn't noticed?) I'm just trying to spread a little oil on troubled waters. Please don't stir up any more matches. While we are trying to refrain from personal attacks on Donaho, we cannot allow lies which have misled many people—including us—to go unanswered. -lgj

PRENTISS CHOATE: A paragraph by paragraph refutation of BOONDOGGLE will probably never be written; those who might write it are too aware of the possibility that somebody might be further embarrassed or endangered. BOONDOGGLE has such a superficial plausibility, such a good pretense of being factual, that people are going to be taken in by it just as the rest of the Con committee, Tony Boucher, and the committee's lawyer were taken in, until someone reduces it to the mound of wildly distorted reports, innuendo, pious doubletalk and begged questions it actually is. But this will probably never be done.

It's not really necessary, however, since this whole fiasco has little or nothing to do with Breen's sex life. Walter is only the occasion, not the cause, of what has happened. The attackers were just lucky enough to find a guy sufficiently vulnerable to be usable as a symbol. Some people spend an entire life looking for someone helpless enough and in an untenable enough position that they can convince their conscience that they're Benefiting Mankind by destroying him, and so feel vindicated in pouring out their reservoir of hatred on other people. (Don't tell me people don't have such motives. I have them, and it's all I can do to keep them out of this letter and refrain from doing to Donaho what I accuse him of doing to Breen.)

Do you still believe Bill's motive is only to protect our children and/or the reputation of fandom? Both his words and his actions speak otherwise. First, look at the timing of this blowup. Note that all the incidents alleged in BOONDOGGLE happened years ago. The only recent act of which Breen is accused is an affair with Glen, and this is hardly something new. Meanwhile cons have come and gone with Walter in faithful attendance, and out of them hasn't come even a rumor of his doing anything to a minor.

Then look at what's happening in Walter's life more recently. Now, if there be any among you who could not be convicted of a felony if the right person or people appeared to testify against him, let him step forward and start casting stones. (Bill Donaho does not qualify.) You know we can't afford to judge each other on the basis of what we've been or done in the past; but one thing that should count is how hard a person tries to change. Walter Breen has made as powerful an effort to break the pattern of a lifetime as just about anyone I've known. He has joined and religiously pursued Subud and Scientology, and whatever you think of these movements his sincerity cannot be doubted. When he learned he was persona non grata in certain homes, he was only too glad to stay away, even to cease attending GGFS to pacify his enemies there. The only thing Walter has ever asked of those who can't stand him is that they leave him alone.

So just when you'd expect the fuss to be dying down, just when it seems Breen's diligence is paying off and he finds himself a fine woman and is on the verge of straightening out altogether, Donaho publishes BOONDOGGLE and smears Walter's name from one end of fandom to the other. Just when it could now destroy two people's lives instead of one.

Second, look at the Con committee's reasoning. As they heard from their attorney (who was consulted for the specific purpose of finding a tenable way to oust Walter) they would be liable if Breen misbehaved and somebody sued, on the basis that they had prior knowledge of his "general reputation." Well, there are about three bad smells connected with that. First, it hangs entirely on the assumption that Walter is likely to accost some child at the con. (If he doesn't, nobody's in any danger whatever; you can't sue anyone for failing to throw out of a public meeting someone who has never been convicted of anything.) And to anyone who knows Walter even casually, the chance of his doing this is beyond the wildest possibility. (But I'm forgetting, Walter isn't a human to those who think this way, only a symbol, so they couldn't see this.) I mean, the likelihood of his molesting a child at the con is about the same as Big Bill's blowing a joint while moderating a con panel.

Second bad smell: Who d'you suppose created Breen's "general reputation" and saw to it that the Con committee had unmistakable prior knowledge thereof? And then had the gall to use as an argument for not reversing the committee's action, that such a stink had been raised that some hardnose was likely to clobber Walter if he came to the Con?

In short, Bill forced everyone into a position where it would be next to impossible to back down, and burned all his bridges behind him evidently as insurance against his coming to his senses himself. [This is a major portion of an open letter originally circulated to Cult members only. —lg]

DICK LUPOFF: Your comments on l'affaire Breen (Les's and Ted's and Spy's) made fascinating reading, especially when read against the background of Bill Donaho's broadside. I must agree at least somewhat with the comments on Gerberizing that appeared in Eney's Cultzine, AVANC (and speaking of the Cult, this was the first Cultzine I've seen in over two years, and the organization hasn't changed a bit!), that not all the defense really helps out the accused. [Perhaps this is because our material wasn't intended to be as slanted as Donaho's. To me, both sides of the story are even more convincing than "our" side, because the other side is so feeble. —lg]

As for the truth of the charges, I just don't know; I doubt that anyone except Walter and a few people in Berkeley know. I do think that if the charges are false, Walter would do well to issue a statement saying clearly and unequivocally, The Charges Are False. He may think to hold himself above sordid embroilment by remaining silent, but what I suggest is not a detailed refutation, and, while he says nothing, the natural tendency is to believe what is said.

This is, after all, no case of an irresponsible adolescent publishing the mad ravings of a paranoid against one of the most respected names in fandom (for late arrivals, I refer to the Jennings-Berry-Kemp affair of 1962; if you still don't know what I mean, Ask Someone Older). This is a highly respected BNF charging a fan of undenied brilliance but of distinctly controversial behavior, with carrying that behavior beyond the far-out limits insisted upon even by fandom.

Several years ago when Joe Gibson published his now-legendary "Whores, Thieves, etc.," mine was one of the voices demanding that he name names and cite cases, or be quiet. He did the latter.

Now, a name has been named and (some) cases have been cited (although I detect strong emanations from Berkeley that the citation of cases was drastically truncated in the published broadside, and I wonder why this should be the case), and I ask Walter, if the charges are untrue, deny them.

Pending word from either side, confirming or denying the charges against Walter, let's do something more. Let's assume that the charges are true.

If all accusations against Walter are true, I think they come down to the following two items:

1. He is a homosexual.
2. He is a child molester.

As far as the first charge is concerned, my attitude is, So what? (It has been pointed out that Walter is not a homosexual, but is bisexual. I maintain that bisexuality includes homosexuality just as omnivorous eating habits include herbivorous eating habits, and I say it's broccoli and I say the hell with it!) [It also includes heterosexuality... —tw]

If Walter is a homo- (or bi-) sexual, and in his activities he observes the consenting adults rule, and further avoids objectionable public display, then what he does is strictly his own busi-

ness (and that of his sex partner(s)). If/when he marries, then his wife will also have something to say, I suppose, but that will be strictly an internal (!) family affair.

Fandom as such has long since recognized the consenting adults rule as the guiding principle of romantic/erotic relationships, and Walter has as much right to its exercise as anyone else.

The second charge is a completely different matter. If Walter is a child molester (and, repeat, I am not discussing whether he is or not; this is a hypothetical case, pending substantiation or refutation of the charge) then action should be taken, but I do not think that the action of barring him from an SF convention (or even from fandom) is at all an adequate response.

If he is a child molester, he is a menace. Really. And should not be walking around. He is either a criminal (which I do not for one second believe) and should be locked up; or he is grossly disturbed psychologically and should be treated with a maximum goal of getting him to stop wanting to molest children and a minimum of getting him to stop molesting them, by sublimating his urges or by plain will-power repression of those urges.

If he is a child molester, and if he continues to practice his fancy, Walter is sooner or later going to face one of two people, and it's more-or-less chance which he faces first: either a cop followed shortly by a charge of Statutory Rape, or Child Molestation, or Impairing the Morals of a Minor, or (this one I love!) Crime Against Nature...followed shortly by a long stay in the Hal Shapiro Hotel. (Hello again, kiddies; ask Uncle Aged who Hal Shapiro is.)

Or if the police don't get him first, Walter is going to face an Irate Parent with a Loaded Shotgun in his hand, followed by a permanent stay Underground.

I'm not just making scare talk, and I'm not joining the Let's Jump on Walter Club. Pat and I have known Walter for almost four years now, and our relationship with him, while never what I would call close, has always been cordial and friendly.

All of this does nothing to alter the fact that if this man is a child molester, he must undertake a concentrated course of psychiatric treatment (I do not mean treatment for the physiological brain damage that we all know Walter has; I mean treatment for the obvious emotional disturbance that would be causing this behavior)...for the good of society and in the interest of sheer self-preservation.

All of the above is based, as I said, on the assumption that charge #2 against Walter is true.

If the charge should prove to be false, then the very least that Walter is due is the reinstatement of his convention membership and a public apology from the persons responsible for his expulsion.

LENNY KAYE: MINAC #12 arrived about a week ago, giving time for first impressions to wear off considerably...but they still remain. I'm shocked.

Not having received any of Donaho's little notes, first I threw off the whole business as a big hoax...but the whole thing is a little bit too strong for a hoax and could be considered libellous in some quarters. But the whole thing is a little hard to believe the first time around.

I really can't make any concrete opinions about the case. I don't know enough about the incident to make any snap judgments.

But I do know Walter. Not very well, but I've talked with him at several local conventions and at the Discon. He's always impressed me as an intelligent, quite normal person who would go out of his way to be nice to someone, even if he didn't especially like him.

What I'd like to know is what the hell the Pacificon committee is trying to prove. I'm sure it has nothing to do with child-molesting. There were several young fans at D.C. and I never even observed Walter looking lustfully at any of them. (I did notice him looking rather lustfully at a rather cute beatnik type girl, but she was over 21 and cannot, by anyone's imagination, be classified as a "child.")

Ted's group of "Giant Killers and Witch Hunters" seems to have popped up again. I dunno...the last I heard, everyone was yelling that Fandom is Just a Goddam Hobby and we're taking ourselves too seriously. Now, the Pacificon committee has decided they are the Big Brothers of fandom and are going to remove all unpleasant elements from our midst. Next thing you know, fans with beards will be forced to shave them off or be eliminated from the con...the monster fans might get the wrong idea of fandom. Where does one draw the line? If a charge like this could even be remotely considered, what other charges might be brought up? Fan J is a homosexual because he spent the night at Fan M's house? Fan P is practicing adultery with Fan Z's wife because one day while the latter was out Fan P waited over at his house for him to return?

And since when has any group of people indulging in a hobby got the right to judge anyone's morals.

But I digress. It seems to me that the Pacificon committee is trying to railroad Walter Breen out of fandom. ["I want to perform a surgical operation, separating Walter and fandom." —Donaho] I don't think they'll succeed. Instead of making a bad name for Walter, they'll make asses out of themselves, and the Pacificon of '64 will go down in fan records in the same light as the WSFS Inc. and the like.

I just fear that Walter will feel that fandom has stabbed him in the back and become disgusted at fandom because of the allegations. This is what the Pacificon committee wants. He might not feel that fandom is worth all this insinuation. A lesser man might say the hell with it. I hope Walter lives up to the crisis.

But anyway, thanks for delivering the news to me. MINAC is indispensable.

[Considering the now-evident personal nature of the BOONDOGGLE, the support various other Berkeley fans have given Walter, and the lack of statements from other Pacificon committee members, I am beginning to wonder if the charges "our" side has leveled at the committee might be directed more accurately at Bill Donaho. -lg]

DICK ELLINGTON: Really, you do go to extreme lengths to get a letter of comment. Surely there must be an easier way....

I don't quite know where to start in, so I'll just ramble on from point to point and, if things get a little disjointed, try to remember that I don't intend this as an exercise in literary style.

To begin with, you appear to have made a lot of assumptions all by yourself—or maybe with the aid of some other nitwits—and a number of them just don't stand up. From the tenor of your remarks and your wide-sweeping references to "Berkeley fandom" I gather that you think a large number, perhaps a majority, of the fans in the area are taking part in this anti-Breen business. I have no intention of speaking for anyone else in the area—just my wife and myself. Kindly note (and remember that you could have asked first) that we are not members of the Pacificon II committee, nor even members of the convention itself for that matter, nor have we ever been, nor are we privy to any of their secret war councils. We are not members of any of the local clubs and attend very few of their affairs, even the open ones. We were not consulted by Donaho or anybody else before he published BREEN BOONDOGGLE. We did not and do not acquiesce with his ideas or actions on the subject.

To carry things a step further, I have been approached since this thing started and queried as to my willingness to testify against Walter in court. I have given a point-blank No in answer and tendered the warning that if subpoenaed—by either side—I would be one hell of a hostile witness to the whole lot of them.

Now let's look at the other side. Personally I don't give a tinker's damn about Walter Breen—note I said personally. He's just not one of those people who turns me on, and much of his life and living as known to me I find personally distasteful and definitely lacking in cool. So I am not about to head up an ACLU committee to Save Walter Breen either. The only thing I ask is that you fuggheaded neo-Ozarkian feud-happy nuts leave me and mine the hell out of your little mud-puddle splashing contests. Do I make myself clear?

Now let's get down to specifics. An individual's reputation is not made so much by him or her as by other people. At present my daughter is just about six years old. Both Pat and myself enjoy fandom—at least some aspects of it—and would very much like to remain in fandom on a more or less permanent basis. But when I start thinking about my daughter growing into a teenager and being continually reminded by the fannish yokels who collect such bits of trivia about this whole thing—with nothing but such drivel as you and Donaho have put out to base their remarks on—well, I don't like it at all. No, I don't care much for the idea. And I would like to take a pause at this moment to serve notice on fandom in general that any more references to my daughter, in or out of print, will cause me much grief and annoyance. Much.

But let's get down to specifics. Donaho's description, though a trifle overdone to my thinking, was moderately accurate. Walter obviously liked Poopsie and she him, and, while I found some of his actions mildly distasteful, they were certainly completely harmless and I did not attempt to stop him or interfere with him. I did, however, keep an eagle eye on him at all times with my daughter, based on the vague rumors as to his activities with children I heard drifting around. I might note that I do the same with a few other fans that have been in this area. As, concurrently, Walter's attentions began to be a bit more effuse and Poopsie began to grow from a state of infancy into a little girl, I simply put a stop to it. I did not put Walter completely down, particularly as far as fandom was concerned. He has a right to his eccentricities as far as I'm concerned.

Certainly we try to raise our daughter somewhat permissively. We'd be one hell of an anarchist couple if we did otherwise. But she does get slapped down now and then—albeit mostly verbally—and she is not permitted to get drunk any more than she is permitted to play in the traffic or eat poison. She is permitted to taste anything we drink, resulting in a marked aversion to whiskey, a mild dislike of beer and only a faint interest in wine. She's more spirited, more high-strung and more temperamental than most of the kids in this crowd but nothing to the extent of what you imply. You're absolutely right about reputations. Unfortunately, like it or not, your daughter has had a pretty wild reputation -- whether deserved or not. Naturally, not having seen her myself since she was a toddler, in 1959, I've had nothing but these stories (and they've come from virtually everyone in the Berkeley area at one time or another) to go by. It now appears obvious that, along with certain other Berkeley stories, these are exaggerated, and I apologize -- as does Les -- for adding currency to them. We will respect your wishes in this regard in the future. -twj Along with many others, we were misled by Donaho's fluent use of the Big Lie technique. Since Bill was making such radical statements in front of an audience which included the people involved, we simply presumed they must be essentially true because it would be absurd for him to say anything false. We overestimated Donaho's rationality (and, much to our regret, underestimated Walter's), and for this we apologize too. It is, however, incredible to us that those like yourself who are really damaged by Donaho do not react against him with the contempt his blatant disregard for truth and propriety deserve. -lg & twj

NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST: As the BOONDOGGLE was published, and as the committee excluded Walter, I was on the scene. Robbie Gibson, whose opinions are very much like Joe's, only more extreme, asked me what I thought about this, whether I was on their side, as a "relatively disinterested outsider" or with what she described as "The Fuggheads" -- meaning the Knights, Clintons, Ardis Waters, the Nelsons and other Berkleyites who have been pro-Breen. I mumbled something noncommittal, like I didn't dig throwing Walter out of fandom but thought there were probably solid reasons for expelling him from the convention. Robbie, or maybe it was Joe, interrupted with something like: "I don't want to expel Walter Breen from fandom; I want to expel him from the human race."

Anyway, I was there when Walter was excluded, I've witnessed the tremendous amount of telephone calls between Donaho and various people, the letters from Eney and Scithers, in particular, who seem to be adopting the kick of going along being nice to Walter, writing to him and all, until he says something incriminating, and then, in glee, turning it over to the committee in the person of Donaho.

I personally feel, on the basis of everything said and done and my own impression of Walter Breen, that had Walter been instructed to keep hands off, pointing out to him what was what, he would, perhaps, have been hurt, but he would've complied. The committee yelled about Walter being a paranoid, untrustworthy, about his making passes and setting later dates, and threw him out. Had Walter Breen been a person liked by the committee, no matter what else, he wouldn't have lost his membership. The committee's dislike for Walter was not the reason for his loss of membership, but it was the straw that pushed them to the side of the fence that forced them to take this step. I hold this against them and feel they were wrong in using this, although I get the impression that they have nearly succeeded in convincing themselves that this is not so.

The current feeling in Berkeley is mostly that "If Walter is thrown in jail, he will receive mental help there." Frankly, I find this ridiculous; these people are deceiving themselves, attempting to convince themselves that they are really helping Walter when really their only reason is to rid themselves of a person they dislike.

You are aware, I suppose, that the reason Eney published that Sticky Fan X thing was to use it, two years later, as a reason for expelling Walter from the DisCon. The story fell through [it was based on a false interpretation of an innocent situation], and Eney and the committee, because of this and other things, changed their minds about expelling Breen, although I understand that they still planned to do so right up until the time of the convention itself almost.

There is a campaign now to kick Walter out of fandom completely. Bruce Pelz and Dick Eney have apparently succeeded in their campaign to get enough votes [ten are sufficient] to drop Walter from the FAPA waiting list. After Eney's pious talk about the campaign [some years ago] to blackball Tapscott in the Cult I am even more appalled at his own hypocrisy in this campaign. There may be a petition in the Cult [so far the only petition has been one circulated by Boardman for Donaho's ouster], and he is going to be dropped from SAPS by OE [Bruce Pelz] proclamation. Betty Kujawa, who is a bigger fugghead than I even imagined, is worrying about throwing Walter out of the NFFF, for crissakes. I hardly think Walter is a danger in any way, shape or form through fan publishing, but it seems as though once fans have started a campaign to expel somebody, with possible good reason, from one thing, they feel this is such a wonderful thing that they have to go hog wild about it. (Fans are incredible.) [It seems as though Donaho's poison has spread with deadly swiftness. -twj]

A Personal Statement On The Breen Boondoggle

distributed to readers of Minac, SAPS, and possibly FAPA

At this sitting I have destroyed four beginnings for this 'article' or whatever. I can only say that B--- D----- and crew have done their monstrous work well: the distortions and innuendo so thick, the lies so cuttingly cruel, that the mind boggles. The task of setting all things straight again seems impossible in any trying. One thing which should (but doesn't) smooth the way is the quantity of soft-soap that has been bubbling up in the fan press and in recent correspondence I had; soft soap may be smooth, but it's not really very palatable.

It comes in one form as a 'poll' from Eney, so loaded as to pre-whitewash the committee's act. It comes in another form as a letter from the West. "I hope you aren't being carried away by the hysteria of White and Gerber," it says, "Ted in particular always feels that everything is done from personal (and low; in his view) motives rather than circumstantial necessity." This may or may not be a true picture of Ted (let him argue it); but it doesn't happen to be valid in this case; not if one remembers B--- D-----'s quasi-quote of Danny Curran which explained the action: "You know I have homosexual friends. But I think Walter's a shit. And this is a handy club to hit him with." So excuse me for not buying the bit; I'm afraid it just doesn't sound like 'circumstantial necessity' to me. In fact, I'd even go so far as to say it sounds to me as if the whole thing were done for personal (and low, in my view) motives.

I'm not fighting these things now -- I may be soon. Walter knows better than I just which things are true and which are not; I am offering him space in my FAPA and SAPS zines to defend himself there if he wishes.

Nonetheless, I think I should make my position entirely clear. I think B--- D----- is a shit and nearly always have; but it is the other people who have been throwing darts at Breen's back, people who have been friends of mine, that have disturbed me. I have been in fandom for seven and a half years, I came in at the WSFS hassle and since then I've sometimes felt that fandom has had more snits than Robert Halls; I have seen all manner of backstabbing and dirty tricks. But I have never seen a campaign as low, as deliberately designed to hurt as many people as possible, as this campaign which is being conducted against Walter Breen. So while Walter and I disagree on many points, he has my endorsement because I feel that he, not the con committee, is right; I repudiate those who, close friends though they may have been, are now swimming in a morass of DND in attempts to justify their actions.

I can only speak for myself. I did not have a Pacificon II membership to give up. I have informed the committee that I do not intend to join; and I urge all who feel as I do to take like actions: unless Walter's membership is returned and a proper apology is offered, I, for one, would just as soon see the Pacificon reap the reward of non-attendance for the committee's irresponsible actions. Though I suppose the monster fans will attend regardless.

I have a big mouth: I intend to voice my objections in SAPS and in FAPA, to write magazine and fanzine, fan and pro alike, to do everything in my power to dissuade them from supporting the convention and to get them to urge others to do likewise.

Further, I go into print against the FAPA blackball being organized simultaneously against Walter. As far as I know, Bruce Pelz heads this and he is backed by B--- D----- and F.M. Busby. This is further proof to me that the action taken was for personal rather than circumstantially necessary reasons; of all the charges leveled against Walter, none of them have any but a personal bearing on his possible FAPA membership -- even if they were true, which has been most emphatically denied. I oppose this action and urge others to oppose it also.

There may be no good way to begin articles like this, but there is a good way to end them: by taking action. Please do.