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The May Deadline for the 111th Fapa Mailing occurs at a relatively uneventful period for the mundane/fannish lives of the Membership. The National Convention is several months away. Most regional cons have yet to be held. Final exams for the scholastic crowd loom close but not yet immediate. BUCK & JUANITA COULLSON are recovering from the usual Spring tornados. Canadian weather is more conducive to Qusebshots. In general, things are quite peaceful about Spring Deadline time.

But how about three months from now? LASFS will have new officers. The weekly APA's will have another thousand pages. New York fandom will still be fragmented. And the Second Saturday in August will find many fans on their way to the London Convention.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to go to London. However, such Traveling Giants as TERRY CARR, BOYD RAEBURN, TED WHITE, and F. M. & ELINOR BUSBY will be going there. I suspect the London Convention is merely an excuse for these fans. Their real purpose is to see such thoroughly British attractions as the Dave Clark Five, the Animals, the Zombies, Herman's Hermits, the Kinks, and Petula "Downtown" Clark. (This latter performer is not to be confused with NORM "Rocker" CLARKE -- the last names are spelled differently, although the voices might be similar.) Although the Beatles will be in the midst of their annual American tour, I expect these fans will make a Pilgrimage to Liverpool. True disciples, these. In addition to the Convention Program Booklet, RON BENNETT and GEORGE LOCKE, I strongly suggest that the Con Committee have copies of Melody Maker readily available for such serious students of contemporary British Culture.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to go to London. However, Traveling Giant BOB SILVERBERG will be there. He drinks, you know. Since he is a Traveling Giant, I don't think he'll ask for ice in his pint of Old & Bitter. However, in his continuing quest for Exotic Foods in Foreign Countries, he will probably have a Freddie in a Lyon's Corner House (or some other Fancy & Expensive London Restaurant...).

Unfortunately, I won't be able to go to London. However, such local fans as GREGG CALKINS and ED COX will also not go to London. We'll probably go to baseball games, instead.

I personally prefer football to baseball, and professional football to college football. JOHN TRIMBLE once accused me of preferring football because I was a member of the old LASFS. "You just like to watch virile young muscular men hitting each other," was the way he put it. I denied it. "I'm only concerned with the strategy, Meyer," I said. "Just like BILL ROTSLER when he photographs naked ladies. He's only interested in camera angles and lighting effects." I don't think TRIMBLE believed me.

However, while I prefer football to baseball, I also like baseball. As HARRY WARNER once observed in FAPA, baseball is normally more personal than football, since individual contests are more prevalent. A fanciful parallel might be the Fapa and the Cult.

Baseball-wise, this should be a good season for the Los Angeles teams. While the Dodgers finished sixth last year in the National League, the best pitcher in baseball (Sandy Koufax) had a sore arm, and Johnny Podres was lost for the season. This year, Drysdale is coupled with a relatively healthy Koufax and Podres, and the Dodgers have acquired a fourth starter (Osteen) for possibly the best pitching staff in baseball. True, Koufax has an arthritic elbow, and Tommy Davis is possibly out for the season with a fractured ankle. But Jimmy Lefebvre is a rookie sensation at second-base, and Wes Parker is doing a fine job hitting behind Maury Wills and releasing Ron Fairly for outfield duty by playing first base. Wills, as of this writing, is even twelve games ahead of his base-stealing pace of his record year.

Considering that the Los Angeles Angels were formed at the same time as the Washington Senators, the Angels are a remarkable club, continually finishing higher in the American League standings than predicted. Dean Chance won the Cy Young award last year as 1964's outstanding pitcher, and this year he has Rudy May, Angeleno Lopez, and Freddy Neuman (all in their early 20's) in the starting rotation. The Fregosi-Knopp combination around second base was only good enough to represent the American League in the 1964 all-star game. While they might not beat out such older teams like Chicago, New York, Baltimore, or Minnesota, they should win far more games than last year.

Of course the greater Los Angeles area is the major spectator sports center of the United States, both "amateur" and professional. The local "amateur" colleges, USC and UCLA, generally win many national college championships in various sports. For example, UCLA has been top-ranked in basketball for two years in a row. USC was football's national champion in 1963, and led college baseball teams for many years.

Similarly, in professional events, the Los Angeles Lakers generally leads the Western Division of the National Basketball Association. The Los Angeles Dodgers took four straight games from the New York Yankees in the 1963 World Series. The Los Angeles Rams of the National Football League has supplied more all-league pro players to the other league teams than any single college.

Los Angeles is still minor league in hockey. This is primarily due to a non-expansion policy of the National Hockey League. However, the LA Blades average thoroughly respectable crowds in possibly the finest sports arena in the country.

Incidentally, BOB PAVLAT, good skiing was available within four hours drive of Los Angeles as late as the middle of April.

Los Angeles is rapidly exceeding New York as the cultural center of the United States, but that is gist for another fanzine...