

MOONSHINE

FAPA

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WHY I DIDN'T RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF FAPA

OR

IT IS BETTER TO BE A WARY SNARY THAN A WEARY SNEARY.

Last Fall in the midst of all the Foo-for-raw and Donkey-shines I thought about resigning. After all, if some of the finest minds in the Association were going to make fools of them-selves, why should I be an exception. Resigning in huffs is an old fannish custom, and I've done it before. But my huff is getting a little thin, and besides, why should I stick some poor w-l'er with membership at a time of trouble.

So I decided to do something instead. To try and fight fire with satire. It was but the work of a moment for me, a veteran of Fifth Fandom, to form a new political party for FAPA. It was the Reactionary Activity Party of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, and its slogan was "Undo the evils of the present, bring back the old, familiar evils of the past."

I perceived that most of the trouble stemmed from trying to change the Constitution to fit changing conditions. Some were infact calling for the repeal of some of the laws. I went whole hog and wrote out the platform for the RAPPAPA movement.

1. We are for no joint memberships. (There are 65 Memberships, there should be only 65 Members.)
2. We are for the abolishment of the Right of Petition. (Why should we discriminate against those members who don't have enough friends to keep them in.)
3. We are for the abolishment of the six-months activity requirement for new members. (Why should we discriminate against the new deadwood..)
4. We are for the abolishment of the Black Ball. (No actifan should be denied membership..)
5. We are for removing all the requirements for Waiting Lists. (As this is an Honorable organization, their word that they will be active will be enough..)
6. We are for the strict enforcement of the old rule against no prior distribution. (Once more the honest editor would wait for the mailing to arrive before reading his own fannings..)
7. To provide for greater harmony in the Association, any member who is not in agreement with the principles of the RAPPAPA would be dropped from membership.

As you can see, there is a little sense behind each--even No. 6 which harks back to the silly days when I was President.. Anyway I sent copies of the above to all the major news-zines and to the Bushies.. But do to governmental management of the news, none of you ever heard of it. And I didn't get the chance to push the organization.

Sneary II

My plan was to run for President--without expecting to win-- and maybe even work out a complete slate of fed up FAPA friends. But in January I had a long lasting cold that was just enough of a bother to kill my interest in other things. And about the end of the month my Father started to complain of not feeling to well. His eyes had been troubling him for a while, and he said he felt tired and lacked ambition (I'm always tired, so wasn't very sympathetic.)

Eye doctors gave him new glasses, but his eyes got worse. The regular M.D.'s didn't find anything wrong, and kept telling him to come back each week. All the while he felt worse, without feeling any special pain or discomfort. Was more cross and irritable than usual, and finally his driving showed signs of becoming erratic. Finally on March 8th he felt so bad, and looked so bad, we called friends and took him into the Good Samaritan Hospital, where his U.S. Railroad insurance would cover things.

For the next two weeks the doctors took test and more test, and then more X-Rays, trying to find out what was the matter. All the while my Father's condition grew worse. He couldn't remember things, and his talking was erratic though not irrational. He slowly became paralyzed in his right side. Each day Mother and I would make the trip town town (50 minutes by car or 90 minutes by bus) and see him worse, and the doctors seeming not doing anything.

Finally they told us, after taking a cerebral angiogram that he had a deep seated brain tumor. And it was the opinion of all the doctors that a craniotomy would not be of any help. The operation would do more damage than good, and might kill him in itself. And because it was apparently fast growing, they did not think he would last more than a few weeks. But, so as to do what they could they started ~~radiation~~ radiation treatments with cobalt.

This seem to make him still worse at first, and he got to the point where he was completely unable to move or speak. Then he started to come back. By the First of May he was able to hold a normal conversation, and even walk to the bathroom with help. As the radiologist completed the series of treatments they told us we might as well bring him home, or to a convalescent hospital. So two months to the day later (the point his insurance gave out) we moved him to a convalescent hospital in Lynwood, only three miles from home, where it was possible to visit him twice a day, which Mother has for over two months---now, July 15th, she has been spending the whole day there, for over two weeks.

His condition slowly worsened since the move, untill now he is again completely helpless. Unable to move or speak more than ocasional word. Sleeping farther away each day. We can expect him to go into a coma any time. The only thing we can be greatfull for is that there doesn't seem to be any pain. The pain is felt by the rest of us... Mixed with a feeling of helplessness.

anyway. I've been to coffee (cut off from it all) to run for President... or even answer mail. Please understand and excuse.

Sneary III

But, as of a month ago I was still thinking I might run, just for kicks. (And you know who would have kicked...) I'd even worked out a Real Neat Ploy, that would have been right in keeping with the whole RAPPAPA movement.

I was going to write letters to all the FAPA members I might get away with calling Good Buddies, telling them the fix I was in. Here I wanted to run for President, but didn't really want to be elected. But FAPA was so full of nuts that I might just be elected inspite of my platform.. I wouldn't have time to serve, and my integaty wouldn't premit me to do a bad job if I was elected. So what I perposed was to offer my Good Buddy, the chance to be the Secret Master of FAPA. If elected, I'd send all the correspondence to him, and let him decide, and write Presidential messages---and then I'd send them out over my name.. A chance at power few fans could pass up. All they had to do was promise to vote for me.

Ofcourse each Good Buddy's letter would be a carbon copy with his name obviously typed in afterward---so that it would be clear I was making the same offer to everyone I knew.. I thought that was a real keen idea.... But maybe I've been alone to long.

----Comment-- Horizons #94 & Warner

If you are going to keep bring the Ed Martin business up, I'm fool enough to answer you.. Especially when you have pulled the role of Zola so far down over your head it covers your eyes.. Atleast to the point you are making ridiculous statements... I referr to: "But I wish every FAPA member would try to understand that the precedent has been set for expulsion of FAPA members on one sole basis: unpopularity."

Surely Harry you don't think this is the first time? Or even that FAPA is a goverment of Law rather than People? You have been a member twice as long as I have, but I have never known a time when members who were unpopular with the ruleing bunch (not just the officers, but those who really run FAPA), had to step around pretty lively while toeing the line exact to keep from being droped.. While a member who was popular would be kept in almost inspite of himself.

To name a few names, look at Higgs and Myers.. They krep't by on mini-act for years with lots of grips, and were scuttled the first chance the officers had.. What, on the other hand of Purdue who has been saved by petition countlless times---or the artist who hadn't done but a couple pages all year, and who's membership was saved by the S-T counting every last square inch of his work in other zines.... --- Or take dues.. G.M.Carr was droped fair an square we all agree..with reasonable warning an all.. But several years back I found myself in the same boat. The O-O came and I had a "dues are overdue" sign by my name.. I was sure I was out, but I rushed my dues to the S-T anyway.. I got oack a letter saying it was O.K. Two other members had failed to renew in time (including a top ten-er) and rather than see us droped another local member had paid all our dues... -- The cases are the same, the rules the same, only the people are different.. ---- And least we forget, there was George Wetzel, who was rather unpopular with you and was droped from the Waiting List.

Sneary IV

Fair is Fair, Harry. If you are going to object to unfair treatment of one, it follows you should object to them all.. Or rather, if you are going to put up with officers who play politics (and while it is maddening at time, I've always thought it was part of the excitement of membership) it doesn't look well to put on an injured look when they step on your toes.

And just for the record, I didn't mind Martin as a member. He was just one of the ten or so members who I never read and wouldn't miss them if they were gone.. But the more members I don't have to read, the less I feel I'm missing.. -- and I liked the size of the last mailing.. It had nearly all the people who's zines I want to read, in amounts that were easy to get down. (Now face it, don't you find it easier to read four or six pages of my stuff every other mailing than it would be to read forty pages every three months?)

Vandy #17, and Tucker..

I enjoyed reading Uncle Bob's adventures in Las Vegas, though when the first thing he did on getting into town was look up an old buddy in the Private Eye game, I thought we were reading the first chapter of a new book.. But after I read it it occured to me that I may be the only member of FAPA who ever worked in Las Vegas for six months.. (How's that grab ya?)

The facts are, for the most part I saw the other side of the world from the one Bob did. My job was with the Southern Nevada Telephone Co., and I helped keep stock records in their warehouse, and drove 15 miles morning and night to my sisters home in Henderson (half way to the Dam). All the time I was there I gambled only \$6, and won \$3 back.. I did spend more time in bars in those six months than I have in the rest of my life, but they were not my chief interest..

Most people visiting Las Vegas see only the building along the three or four main Highways, and the insides of Clubs, were the sole business is to separate the tourist from his money.. But remember that when the bar man is off duty, or waitress is through, they don't necessarily spend the rest of their time gambling and drinking and ----- Most of them that I met, who have been there a while, go home to average looking homes and families, and behave a lot like anyone else.. Las Vegas is the largest city in Nevada, and it takes a lot of people to keep it running. And as there is a high Mormon population, many of the people don't even drink coffee.

There are churches (I might add, to balance the bit about going to bars, that I attended church more often in those six months, than at any time in my life), schools, and department stores...and one whale of a building boom. Homes going up all over.. Even when I was there, nearly eight years ago, they were building homes faster than the telephone company could string new lines. They even have a magnesium plant that produces smog. Rents are high, but food prices are average. Infact when I was there meals at some gambling spots were quite cheap--the House getting it's profit from the other kind of tables... There is more I could tell, but I've written enough this time.. yur's
Richard Sneary



CELLOPHANE HEAVENS (Boggs)--Chucklesome.

TORRENTS (Nan Rapp)--The "black of me hand to you" cover should have sported a companion insignia indicating that the mag was a Mafia Press Publication... That's right, "Moved Away From It All"....

In some respects a more detailed trip-and-arrival report than the one Nan wrote for CAPA. Hope both ye Rappa will provide more reports on life in Italia, both in FAPA and CAPA. Perhaps, in time, they will become to Italian fandom what Tackett is to Japanese fandom.

HORIZONS (Warner)--Of course it all depends on how one interprets the meaning of "original material", but I do know that the bulk (if not all) of the material in Martin's mag consisted of nothing more than the re-telling of what were once quaintly titled "Smoking Room Stories". Jokes so old that I--to use another quaint expression--kicked the mats out of me cradle the first time I heard 'em. If that be all a FAPA member need provide in the way of page credits to retain membership, then I can hardly wait until I re-join the old beneyard. I have several old favorites to tell, and to re-tell in their variations, as well as some more recent "gossies" I've brought out at the office. There's my favorite ice man story, and the one about the lady photographer in the deep south, and the tale of the traveling salesman and the huge vending machine, and so on, or into the night. Why, all I'll have to do is write out 8 page "Dens" per year, each column featuring long-winded versions of the jokes I've heard over the years. What a scrap! While taking this attitude I may as well not bother to check my status each quarter in the FA's membership list. If I forget to pay my dues on time--so what? I'm sure that there will be more than enough old joke lovers among the members to sign the petition required by the By Laws.

There was a outlier saved on the end of it.

THE VINEGAR WORM (Leman)--What's this jazz about Busby's Hypothesis? I was R. M. Sneyary, Esquire, who first quothed P.M., "where old fans go to die"?

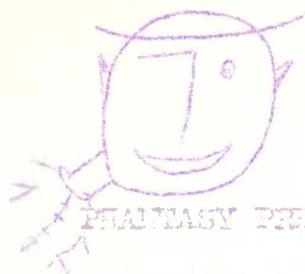
That was back in February, 1943. Other than that the worm was as enjoyable as ever... chucklesome here, hilarious there... and what's a Bar Fe Drive doing in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, for gosh sakes???

SERCON'S RAVE (FM Busby)--As a voting lister who has acknowledged each and every rescue from the time I got on the w/l, I too object to the idea of voting in "popular" w/l lists to fill membership gaps. I would bitch like hell if anybody below me on the list were voted in ahead of me (even if it were good old friends such as Woolston or Beckert, to name a couple), and I would not accept membership myself in the unlikely event that all 65 members voted unanimously to make me a member ahead of those ahead of me on the w/l. As the Esquire would say, Fair is Fair. Re the "required coat and tie" bit: I'm not quite as anti-necktie as Buzz. There are times when I like wearing a tie, and there are times when I do not. My objection is to that lil' old word "required".

As for the "admit rights"--with the ladies in their bare shouldered attire, it works both ways, Buzz. At last year's Westcoast in L.A. I wore a coat and tie to the banquet, and was quite comfortable as the room was a bit on the cool side. Anna was wearing an off-the-shoulder dress, and had neglected to bring a war, so she was uncomfortable. (I gallantly loaned her my handkerchief to help drape her shoulders against the cool air.) Some places are not heated for the bare-shouldered girls, especially in the summer time when the air conditioning is set to near-frigidity to compensate for a roomful of people on a hot day or night. Whenever does the setting usually over-compensates, I've found--over-heating in the winter, and over-cooling in the summer. All of which presents a problem as to what or what not to wear to insure being reasonably comfortable. I think that banquet room temperatures should be announced (like weather reports) before the affair so that a lister will know ahead of time what to expect, and can dress accordingly.

LEWIS DILL--2*

(and a change of typeface, which may or may not be easier to read...and a chance to correct a typo on first page of this column, said page having been run off before I discovered the typo. See last paragraph, fifth line: should read "a wrap"--not "a war"...Of course, "war" could stand for "wrap-a-round"... If there be other typos in these pages--you can correct 'em yourself.)



PHANTASY PRESS (McPhail)--Of minor interest, but only because I haven't read all of the previous mailing.

THE RAINING HAPS (Jacobs)--Chucklesome. And a very BON Voyage!

SALUD (Elmer Busby)--Lil' ol' winemaker you, eh? Can wine be made from domestic grapes--that is, grapes indigenous to this country? Anna thinks not. Anyway, let us know how you make out with the Oregon grape wine. Should be an interesting experiment.

AKTAD (Silverberg)--Recently read--and enjoyed--your pb on the Rockefellerers, Bob. Will keep an eagle out for LOST SKILLS, etc. We have the Horizons Book of Lost Worlds. Beautifully illustrated, but text tells us nothing we hadn't already read elsewhere.

LEWIS DILL'S BODGS IN THE POOL (Assorted southern Califaps)--Well, maybe we'll get another chance to do it--at the Westerecon. (This col is being writ around the end of June, first of July. I expect to attend the Westerecon, and celebrate Independence day by snapping pix with my new camara, at pool side, and elsewhere. No, this is not a "fair warning", as y'all won't be reading this until weeks after the Westerecon...hsh. hsh...)

GENERALAIS (Evans)--Orson Welles was the original radio Shadow, wasn't he? But perhaps the re-broadcasts aren't going back that far.

WRAITH (Ballard)--Shucks, I don't think the Horatio Alger books were a menace. As I recall the books warned boys about con men, and other crooked types. One of my favorites, "Jed, The Poorhouse Boy", had one hell of a time before he came into his own. (disclaimer!) He had help from friendly persons (some strangers, and some not), but he suffered much from the machinations of baddies (some strangers, and--as for instance, the man & woman in charge of the Poorhouse--some not).

COCKERICE(Boggs)--A very nice "Little Magazine". I think I liked the essay on Hector Tuba best. I keep wanting to do a fannish clerihew on Redd Boggs. But it isn't quite as easy as falling off logs, which always seemed to me like a silly thing to do, though perhaps no sillier than writing a fannish clerihew...

POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC (Brown)--I'm one of the few southern Califans who hasn't met Paul Stanbery, but you certainly make him sound like a person well worth meeting. I enjoyed his play, being a play reader from 'way back. It doesn't say as much as it could, though, or that's the feeling I got while reading it. But one really shouldn't comment on a play that one has read only once. Better to read it several times, or see it staged and acted, before making with the critique. On the basis of only one reading I'd guess that its simplicity is (deliberately?) deceiving.

LIGHTHOUSE (Graham & Carr)--You gents don't do badly as amateur composers. If you really used a proofing press it must have been quite a job, striking off the 68 (plus?) copies. Of course it depends on the proofing press...

NULL-F (White)--Not having read previous mailings I'm not sure what your (Ted's) comments in re political parties were in reply to...but from where I am sitting it is obvious that the Republican Party is indeed the Business Man's party, or--more accurately--the Big Business Man's party. In the office where I work the Democrats are outnumbered by the Republicans about 7 to 1. Almost the exact opposite holds true in the factory, where I used to work before I was "kicked upstairs" into the sales office. Ted, I don't have Rick's mailing at hand right now, but I think you used the term "workers" when referring to supporters of the Democrat Party. I knew what you meant, of course, but office and management personnel are workers too, be they Republicans, Democrats, or whatever. I'm not speaking of the "soft touch" type of jobs; there are "jobs" or "positions" in both factories and offices that require little or no expenditure of mental and/or physical effort on the part of the persons employed for said "jobs". But--generally speaking--a job of work is a job of work, whether it is a factory job or an office job, and persons who do these jobs are workers. How's that for picking at the ol' nits?

But that does not necessarily make the Democratic Party the "poor man's" party. (When me mother was a child the Republican Party was the poor man's party, at least in the neighborhood where her family lived. The GOP's folk here, good ol' Honest Abe, was always being quoted on how God must have loved the poor, he made so many of 'em, etc. But it is fairly obvious today that the GOP is more pro-Big Business than is the Democratic Party.) The Democrats are supported by the wealthy too. If it wasn't for the wealthy both parties might be standing on shaky legs indeed, and a less shakey (by comparison) third party might manage to gain control. No doubt there'd be reforms, and short & long range Plans to make things better for "the people", but without competition from one of the other parties I'm afraid it'd all end in a dictatorship, with our individual freedoms chucked out the window. So I'm glad that both of our major political parties are supported by those who can more than afford it, as well as by the various kinds of working people who are sufficiently aware of the merits of the 2 party system, no matter which of the 2 they support. It isn't a "perfect" system, but it is better than the various systems used in other countries.

mc writer. see what you done done

VANDY (Juanita Coulson)--Sorry to read of Tucker's troubles, but happy to learn that BT & Family just might move to California. You do mean in the L.A. or Orange County area, don't you, Bob? Then we can "organize" a Third Fandom Thrives movement.....

ANKUS (Pelz)--The serio-comic writings of rich brown are always worth reading, so thanx for publishing 'em, Bruce. That ripping sound you hear is my gut splitting at the Bjo(vial) rendering of The Fairy God-squirrel!

THE BULL MOOSE (Morse)--Everytime I think of the Arthurian legend I think of Camelot, which in turn reminds me of

LEN'S DIRT--4*

the story about the chap who rented a camel from an Arabian camel rental lot--yes, a sort of Used Camel Lot--and...well, no, I'd better save these jokes for telling when I'm a member, and need 8 pages of credit.

FRELOTSAM (Economou)--I dropped out of FAPA in '51; you came in--in '54. I expect to be a member again, in '64, and you're dropping out in '63. Since we have never met or corresponded I'm sure there's no significance attached to this, but--seriously--I hate to see Good Members drop out, even if it does mean another step up the w/l ladder for me. I've never heard anything bad about you, and what I've read of you (and by you) was good--and I understand you're not hard to look at, either. Shux. But I can savvy your reasons for dropping out--because they are reasons, not excuses. So, hail & farewell, & best wishes!

TARGET: FAPA (Lney)--I think there is some merit in the "cyclic-history" theory, though of course any theory can be "proven true" by pointing up the facts that tend to indicate its validity, and ignoring the facts that don't--or referring to the latter as "exceptions to the rule". But some things do seem to run in cycles, though you may prefer to think of them as a series of "stages", or a line or row of cause-effect-cause-effect, etc. events. Still, the repetition is there--not because it is caused by any supreme Master Planner, but because human nature hasn't changed a heck of a lot since the first men evolved. For some years now I've toyed with the cyclic-history theory in relation to music, purely as an amateur in both fields (history and music). I assure you. I started out with the idea that music (i.e. currently popular music--created by and for the people-in-general in each given "time period") mirrors the times--the pace of the times, the approach-to-living of the times, etc. Hardly an Original Idea, but I tried to work it out in cycles, and everything seemed to fit pretty well. I'd like to see this idea worked on (or worked out--to the proof or disproof stage) by somebody with a greater knowledge of history and music than I have. Wouldn't be surprised to learn that it has already been done, and if so, would like to obtain the books, articles, or reports on the subject.

Fifth Fandom Flourishes

Yes, the Japanese "Marines" were hardly comparable to the U.S. Marines, but the Japanese army-type soldiers were real fightin' men. Perhaps part or all of this was due to fanaticism (but weren't the Japanese sailors just as thoroughly "propaganda-ized"?), but I think it was primarily due to the obvious fact that the Japanese are a tough, rugged people. At least the ones we had to deal with in WWII were, and when you give basically rugged persons good, thorough training in fighting they are certain to become good soldiers. (I'm not speaking of the kids who were thrown into the war in its last stages; they prob'ly were not trained as well as their elder brethren due to lack of time, and quick need for more soldiers.)

MIMEO (Dees)--Anna reads some (but not all) of the fanzines I get, but she dislikes writing, so I don't think we'll present any "duel membership" problems to FAPA. She may, at times, help out on the mimeography, or contribute an occasional illo, and read some of the FAPAzines, but I rather doubt that she'll want to be a regular member or even one-half member.//Much more to comment on here, but am running out of time & space...

Much to do before, and after, the Westcon. Hoop la!

-Len Moffatt (July 1, 1963)

"MZBATAFF!"

Len's den's shadowy annex

Shortly after returning from Westcon XVI (where we did not get to throw Hedd Boggs

into the pool, on accounts he wasn't there) the 12th SHAPA Mailing arrived...

THE LURKING SHADOW (Hansen)-- I agree that the Shadow Mailings are a good thing for w/listers, & that more of us should participate in 'em. Perhaps I'll manage to publish one or two more issues of MOONSHADE for distribution via SHAPA, but the main reason for my "lack of participation" in SHAPA should be fairly obvious: my geographic location. Downey and South Gate are "neighboring cities", so it is fairly easy for me to occasionally help a little in the writing and publishing of MOONSHINE, a zine for which I naturally have a kind of paternal fondness. And--also obviously--I'm in fairly frequent touch with "Larea fandom", and can (as I have) participate in the local FAPA one-shot sessions. //Like you, I hope to be back in FAPA again in less than a year, or at least sometime before the end of 1964. As I may have said previously (or elsewhere), '64 will mark my 25th Anniversary as an actfan, and I can't think of a better way to celebrate it than by re-joining FAPA.

MESKY'S MAG (sorry, but I'm using a Very Simple Typewriter)--Enjoyable, but can't seem to find a "comment hook". My fault, not yours. Am still resting up from the rigors of the Westcon. As I recall, you were among the ? of us who survived (i.e. "kept the party going") until the wee small hours of Monday, July 8th. Hope you finally made it home and to bed without mishap. I tried to sleep on the flight back (or "down", if you wish), but those DC6's are Noisy and Vibrate Muchly. Didn't get sick, tho. Guess I still have a good stomach for traveling--by land, sea, or air.

GRADUS AD PARNASSUM (Fitch)--If I should participate in the next, or subsequent, SHAPA Mags, I'm in favor of 125 copies to cover all the waiting list. That way I can be sure that friends of mine way down near the bottom of the w/l will get a copy of my zine. Otherwise (if only 105 copies), I'd have to check with you to find out whether or not you sent copies to same. Of course we rarely make more than 105 to 110 copies of MOONSHINE, and the 40 or so extra copies go to most of the w/listers, with maybe a copy or so going to friends who aren't in FAPA and aren't on the w/l either. Depends on the material published in the issue in question.

A RUBBER HEATBALL (Stiles)--I imagine that a goodly number of fans join FAPA because it is limited to a maximum of 65 members, and no doubt feel that if they wanted to publish 100 or more copies per issue of their zines they may as well go in for (or return to) gen-zine publishing. That could be one reason why there hasn't been as much FAPA-Membership-Response to SHAPA as was expected or hoped for. I've already given my reason or reasons why I haven't been participating in SHAPA; others may have similar reasons, or could be they don't want to become "obligated" to fellow w/listers, & wish only to participate in FAPA itself (as noted at the beginning of this paragraph).

W BASKET (Denmon)-- Congrats (I guess) on selling to SIR! I assume they pay on publication?//Belatedly, it occurs to me that I've made no comment on the oc, FA--but I do acknowledge each & every ish & that should be enough.//Out of space and time, again...-Len Moffatt

Len July 11, 1963

