

This is the usual item for these mailings from F M Busby, 2852 14th W, Seattle 99. I have it in mind to cover six stencils with these hen-tracks before winding the zine up this time, so you might as well open up another beer and sit back in comfort. In fact you might as well do that, whether you read the zine or not.

Well, let's look at a few items from the 13th mailing, huh, fellas?

The Alliance Amateur this time proves that a determined OE can hold Official Business down to the bare minimum indeed, if he really works at it. This one might be just a little too streamlined, Bob. But it was worth doing once as a valuable object lesson.

CONNstipation: Oneshots are always fun. The piece on meeting Ted White was hilarious when I first read it a couple of months ago.

Guano: No, Art, I don't feel that rewriting necessarily involves hedging or covering up one's first reactions; generally it will have the effect of tightening up a loosely-thought or loosely-worded comment. I wish I had the time to rewrite, in fact.

Well, at 3 different Cons I've met a fella calling himself Fred Patten. Come to think of it, though, I couldn't swear that it was the same fella in each case.

Judging by your statement suggesting "that non-members ... be ignored in the MCs of members of good standing in the group", I trust you feel that all contributions from non-N'APAns, or at least by non-N3F-members, should go unmentioned. No other apa follows any such custom; good material by non-members is usually welcome in FAPA, SAPS, etc. I guess Bergeron is abusing the hospitality of SAPS by running material by non-SAPS such as Blish, Willis, Pohl, and the like. Should we tell him to stop it?

On the other hand, I agree with you that an over-preoccupation with "dignity" is silly in a group of this sort, and feel that NAPS would be a perfectly-OK title for the apa, for the reasons you give: we should be able to kid ourselves a li'l bit!

Vaux Hall Fanatic: I hope you didn't decide that RR95 was dead or that I had gafiated from it when I (apologies!) let it hang up here for several weeks recently. Things just got piled up too badly and the RR is as you know so bulky that for some time there I didn't have the nerve to tackle it, since it almost has to be done all in one sitting.

No kidding, Seth, if I got "100 new subs a month all thru the FCH" you would not like to see my face! You don't like to sadistically watch a fella writhing in agony, do you now? Because 150 copies is all we are gonna run off, period, and it would hurt like crazy to have to send all that money back!

Y'know, reading this issue of your zine, Seth, suddenly I have the feeling that I am attending a meeting of the Nameless Ones. There is this bit where someone stands up and proposes that something should be done, and then tells who he thinks should do it. Well, that's not quite right: at the club it is just that something should be done and someone else should do it, not the guy making the proposal on account he is of course too busy. Whereas you, sir, do indeed Name Names. In fact, you Named mine 3 times, for ideas or projects for which you speak. Now mind you, I appreciate the compliment implied by being listed for these jobs, and I am in no wise putting you down for plugging ideas and trying to put flesh on the bones of them. It is just that the pitch of "Such-&-such should be done, and so-&-so is just the man to do it" stirs a conditioned reflex in me, any more. And honestly, I don't think I'm alone among the folks you listed in not having the time to handle present commitments adequately. But no kidding: "This would sure be great, if you would do it!" gets to sounding sort of-- well, the proper word eludes me just now. No offense meant, but do think it over.

Rache: I'm in N'APA, SAPS, and FAPA, only; Elinor is in OMPA and FAPA only; maybe it would make for less symbol-work if you gave us separate-line listings?

I agree that N#APA need be in no hurry to set up an Egoboo Poll; I think it was a public service to give the rundown on Perdue publication; beyond that, I cop out.

Hydra [& sidesheets by the same guy]: Let me join the chorus of congratulators, Mike; your repro with the new machine is a joy to perceive. See? We knew you could.

The Disclave sounds like a gas. Regionals usually are; I like 'em!

Quirk: You have the good touch there; don't be so self-conscious, because as always happens it makes you rattle more. You surely do know some fine kookie poets.

((Quirk, yet)): It's not necessarily the case, by any means, that apans who mostly concentrate on MCs are minactivity types. Wrai Ballard's OUTSIDERS, Toskey's oldtime 40-page FLABBERGASTINGS, my own 20* page zines of not too long ago-- all of these, and no doubt a number of others that do not come to mind at the moment, were mostly MCs. Mind you, I know (as do we all) the small packets of rushed meaningless smidgins that have given all Mailing Comments a bad name in some quarters (including yours, I gather). (Your quarters, that is-- not your MCs!) A good Mailing Comment should be fun to write and interesting to read. It should take a topic that interested the commenter and feed it back to interest the entire readership. Above all, it should be complete in itself, not requiring the reader to dig out the previous mailing to see what's going on.

Maybe one of these days I'll learn how to follow my own advice there, I hope.

Pied Type: Next time put your name on the zine, f'CRYsakes! Up front, preferably.

Kris Carey, your cover artist, is in town for the Fair and supposedly will be out here to see us for a while tomorrow afternoon. Stay tuned...

Having been a Ditto-type publisher I sympathize with your frustration at IPSO's barring of the medium. However, having swung away from Ditto for reasons which will become obvious to you eventually, I must admit that IPSO is being wise in barring Ditto. Ditto is a snare and a delusion-- still, it is fun to mess around with for a while.

The poems have a TCarr shadow about them, and the teacup thing was a real gasser.

Sadistic Sphinx: Your name. Up front. OK?? Seems to be a bad case of modesty going around, these days. Or something.

Repro looks a lot better this time, or am I thinking of some other guy who had trouble before? Anyhow, this time yours looks good, no matter how it looked before.

As yet I've read neither Kerouac's "The Town and the City" nor his "Book of Dreams" but have read the other five that you mention. I found "Subterraneans" coherent overall, you might say, in that the action and events are all fairly clear at the end. Leo struck me as a sort of postwar Studs Lonigan, but both more Bohemian and more literate.

NAPA Bundle: They really do have some characters in that outfit, don't they though?

Fenris: This gonna be one of those nothing-type comments that bug some of our constituency. That is, I do not find any hooks for comment in your quickie issue of this mailing, but since I think I'm going to like your stuff, hello anyway!

Gemzine: Enroll me in your campaign against this sloppy bit of throwing a number of loose sheets into the mailing when these could as easily be assembled behind a single title. There is nothing wrong with a member's having more than one item in the mailing, but a certain amount of organization is indeed desirable.

The "better Red than dead" types seem to be utterly unable to see that on the one hand we have a certain risk of death, and on the other [if we refuse to take that risk] the certainty of slavery. Like you, I personally prefer to bet the odds.

Buffering Solutions: I got a kick out of your chewing Meskys for his eye-hurting purple-on-salmon-- as I read it as rendered in purple-on-salmon. Who goofed? ### Any time your folks won't let you read assigned schoolwork they should in all fairness take you out of the middle by telling this to the instructor in person. It is never good to be caught between opposing interests that way. On the other hand, you and your folks seem to have come to a workable understanding on booze, so I shall not pity you as an abused and misunderstood member of the younger generation.

Niekas: This purple-on-salmon is a drag, y'know! ## Poul Anderson at Seacon led off his talk with the story whose punchline is "There must be a pony in here some-where!" This was printed in CRY 153. Also, a pb on the stands titled "There Must Be a Pony..." includes a variant version, pertinent to the major theme of the novel.

Footfaraw: I expect "The Magic Sword" was fun, at that. ## HOLD IT! Maybe you were only jes' writing too fast, but-- I did not favor "Canticle" in the Hugo elections-- rather, while being a strong "Rogue Moon" man myself, I favored "Canticle"'s right to appear on the final ballot per the voters' wishes under the attendant circumstances. Maybe that's what you meant, but 'tain't just what you said, y'see.

Dubhe: Somehow I think you were doing better when you were getting by with those slipshod old Mailing Comments, even though perhaps they didn't "follow original work". Wot the heck, though; it's your zine.

Djebel: Collectors will hate you; you didn't shift your margins for binding.

Hippikaloric: Mr Johnstone, meet Mr Meskys. Ed says MZB told him she would not send her zines to the WL. She sent you her zines. You two guys settle this between yourselves, willya? I'm getting out of the middle. Maybe MZB will fill in.

I'm still more concerned with what the Fifth Man will be like, rather than what to call him. An apparent-barbarian who is actually the next step beyond the citizen-- I still like the idea of a guy with some attributes of Russell's Gands, but I have a nasty hunch that the trends toward Mass Man are going to give us Fifth Man. And as Campbell said, we won't like it, and are probably incapable of seeing any virtue in it,

Megaloscope: Naturally I'm sorry to see this zine and its editor leave the group here.

However, since that's the way it's going to be, there is not much point in entering comments on the A S Neill material. It is interesting, but since Larry is not going to be around for discussion purposes, any comment would be just a matter of asking a number of questions to an empty podium, like. Too bad, and just when the boy had got away from that verschtunken ditto and gone legible on us, too.

Impromptu: "When I send out a package, it stays sent!" I like that line. I love that line. That's one helluva good line. And I hope you remember that postal lady come Christmas or whatever pagan holiday you celebrate in lieu thereof.

All in all, you seem to be reporting a fairly typical group effort at putting out an apa mailing. We did it a little different around here for SAPS, but that is only because I am more stubborn than nearly anybody.

I would someday like to see "Tropic Isles and Things" by Alf Babcock, if you and I ever move within close enough range of each other to read each other's books.

Nebulous: Don Fitch surely did a fine job of repro for you, Phil; very fine indeed.

I like your optimism for CRY re the Hugo, but I think we will all be giving our congrats to Dick Bergeron for WARHOON this year, actually.

And suddenly it is late and I find myself all and entirely and wholly and utterly fresh out of comments, not only on Nebulous but also on the mailing as a whole, fandom at large, the state of the nation, and the nature of the universe. A surprising state of affairs, you may say-- you who know me and have come to expect that I never really run out of words but only out of space at the bottoms of stencils. Nevertheless, this is one time when all has been said that is gonna be-- until tomorrow and a new subject.

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So-- hail the new day. Our subject for today is: WHAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH N'APA?

But before anyone's blood-pressure erupts, let me give away the punchline: a good look at the situation leads me to think that while indeed N'APA has some troubles, these troubles stem from circumstances that are hardly NAPA's fault at all [though, as I hope to show further along in here, there may well be some things that some of us could do about them]. Neither is the parent organization culpable, I might add.

OK. What are the problems? Well, mainly, the group is having a rough time of trying to build and maintain anything approaching a full roster. Now it is easy enough to say "Well, if people wouldn't just keep dropping out--! If they would stay around and help improve things--!" [It must be easy to say this, since at least three people did so in the 13th mailing.] But that is not the trouble; people are alltime dropping out of any apa, and being replaced by others who have been waiting to drop in. So why hasn't this been the case with N'APA, you ask? Is it just because N'APA is an inferior group? A fifth-rate apa? A nudnick setup? My answer to all this is: N*O*!

Let's look back to 1959, when Guy Terwilleger was preparing to get the first N'APA mailing together for distribution. What was the situation? Well, briefly and before you go out of your minds from sheer suspense, in 1959 there were not enough apa-membership positions for the multitude of would-be apa-members. This, of course,

was the reason why Guy, along with Larry Sokol and others, proposed and implemented the organization of this group. It was a good idea and the results have been good; the first few mailings ran stronger than comparable mailings for the early stages of the pre-existing apas [confirmation, Bruce? BLOB??], and for a short period the group had a full roster and a short waiting-list. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for the past few mailings, and the trend is not now very favorable. WHY?

I will note one side-remark to the effect that a waiting-lister who sees deadwood kept on the roster while piling up unpaid 50¢ fines in lieu of activity is apt to be a disgusted ex-waiting-lister in fairly short order. However, this is a fairly minor point, since it is likely that things would have tightened up quickly if the WL had grown a little bigger at the crucial point. A thought for the future, is all.

More important, let us contrast the situation of 1962 with that of 1959. In 1959 the would-be apaan had the choice of 4 waiting-lists on which to enroll his name with varying degrees of expectancy for quick action: FAPA, OMPA, SAPS, and the Cult. With a word of thanks to Bruce Pelz for his quarterly apa score sheets, we note that in 1962 the following possibilities have added: N'APA (of course), IPSO, SFPA; also coming up are ISFCCAPA, BARF, APA-X (or APEX), and perhaps others. We can overlook the semi-apan carbon circles, even when they get big ideas and go Ditto: CAPA, CRAP, TETRAHEDRON, and various untitled but fairly-stable chains, along with the RRs they more nearly resemble.

But, assuming that the 4 apas pre-existing at N'APA's beginnings can be considered stable features of the fannish landscape, we see that in 1959 N'APA set out to fill the need of an additional group-- and did very well at it. In 1962, however, N'APA has at least two or three, and possibly five competitors for the overflow from the earlier groups. Fans are starting apas with less hesitation and not much more fanfare than used to herald the start of a new fanzine.

Is it any wonder that N'APA is finding it hard to find enough new members? Hardly.

It seems to be a matter of unlucky timing. If N'APA had had a little longer to consolidate its position before the competition began to burgeon so strongly, just ^{enough} long^{er} to build the solid pattern of a roster with the usual regular replacements from a WL of reasonable length and stability, it is unlikely that the later innovations would have put much of a crimp into N'APA. As is, though, things are tough all over.

The trouble with N'APA, then, is that there are simply too many comparable groups bidding for the same membership: IPSO, SFPA, ISFCCPA, and BARF, in particular. [APEX, for instance, is not competing with anyone at all; far as I know, it's just sitting there minding its own business.] And as long as this is the case, none of these newer groups are going to make it very big. As many have found out the hard way, a fan who tries to take in too many apas ends up spreading himself too thin and is not particularly valuable to any of them [unless he concentrates on a favorite and skimps the rest even worse]. Isn't that right, Pelz? Lichtman? Metcalf? Meskys (even though you fudge it by putting the same stuff through various apas)? Harness? Busby (ulp)?

It must be time for the commercial... OK. The answer would seem to be, for the membership of this group, those for whom the welfare of N'APA is a primary aim, to quit horsing around starting and joining so many other new groups. IPSO, I believe, is probably at least starting on its final decline, unless radical changes are made. The SFPA is out of my territory, of course, though some of you are eligible, perhaps. But, BARF and ISFCCPA are both in direct competition with N'APA-- and are both either being supported or even drawing original promotion from the N'APA membership. OK, now we begin to see where we are, don't we?

N'APA is not hurting because McCombs drops out, or Ellik or Wanshel or anyone else. N'APA is hurting because everyone, it seems, wants to start his own apa. Tom Armistead? The cohorts of Clay Hamlin in ISFCC? If you folks really want to help N'APA, why are you mounting raids on its territory? Hmm? Mind you, I don't blame you for getting all enthusiastic about starting a group; all I say is, take a look at the situation now.

I think the idea of Seniority comes in here to a certain extent. Of the newer apas, N'APA has the most stable framework, the advantage of a direct official pipeline to the full membership of the NFFF-- and besides, N'APA was here first! My personal feeling is that of all the groups started in the past 3-4 years, N'APA has the best potential, on a basis of its own record of performance.

Consequently, it would seem that rather than screaming at other people to put in lots of hot licks and stick around for NAPA's sweet sake, a more constructive move might be for the rooting-section to lay off starting and supporting still more new competitors in the field of N'APA's operations, so as to give the group a reasonable chance at the uncommitted potential apa-members. Or so it seems from this corner.

We need to retain a certain amount of perspective, of course. If BARF is more important to Tom Armistead than N'APA is, we have no right to ask him to switch his primary allegiance-- and the same goes for the various first-loyalties of every member of this group. About all that we can ask, then, of the folks who are hollering about what's wrong with N'APA, is: "Do you have the answer, or are you part of the problem?" There is no point in expecting longterm members of SAPS, FAPA, OMPA, or CULT to drop or lessen their pre-existing ties in order to make N'APA their prime interest-- because generally things do not happen that way in the real world-- the N'APAs who dropped the older apas for N'APA did so because they damn well wanted to, not from any exhortations to their collective or individual senses of Duty.

There is of course the case of the fan who enters a group that is easily accessible while going onto the waiting lists of other groups, and who drops one group as the next opens to him. N'APA has no monopoly on this problem, as any longtime SAPS member can tell you: a one-apa-capacity fan is going to stay ^{or go} with the group that gets his personal preference, naturally enough. The end-product of progression through a series of apas is generally a FAPA membership-- though SAPS, OMPA, and N'APA each have a group of stalwarts who are quite satisfied where they are. The goal, of course, is to build on that hard-core so as to be less dependent on what we might call the transient trade. Unfortunately I know of no definite step-by-step plan toward achieving that goal. If you think of one I'd be delighted to hear about it.

Well, there it is, fellas. The trouble with N'APA seems to be the same set of troubles that beset all the apas at one time and another, intensified by the entry of too much fly-by-night competition. So let's all quit kicking ourselves so hard, hey?

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The preceding essay is much more rambling and much less organized than I'd wish, mainly because I am trying to write and at the same time at intervals follow the 1962 Gold Cup races for unlimited hydroplanes being held(?) today on Lake Washington at the east side of our city. The races are 3 hours into the schedule and have yet to finish one heat of racing. First was a consolation race (1st heat of) in which the only boat that finished was an illegal-starter. In heat I-A of the Gold Cup, Miss Seattle Too dug in on the south turn ^(first lap) and disintegrated at 150mph; Dallas Sartz, the driver, came out of it via the Coast Guard helicopter with a thigh fracture which is pretty lucky for that kind of smashup. Heat I-B was stopped in the 5th lap (too soon for the heat to be counted as completed when stopped) when the Tempest caught fire. The Coast Guard fanned the blaze up nobly in trying to blow it out with the copter; they rescued driver Chuck Hickling OK but he is pretty bitter about the fire-fighting prowess of the Coast Guard, especially as he had brought no marshmallows to toast over the flames of his \$30,000 boat. * * * [indicates a pause to watch racing] So they reran heat I-A and oh boy was that ever a comedy. Wild Bill Cantrell has been trying to race out here for 11 years; until today he had never finished a heat. Well, he still hasn't, but now he has won a heat. ^{thus stopping the heat} Seems he led at end of lap-7, went dead in the south turn, but another boat caught fire before the new leader could finish a lap and "officially" take the lead away from Cantrell. Well, Bill is quite a guy [he took his boat up the beach into a rose garden in 1954, just in time for the picnic lunch there]; he would be the first guy to win a heat with a dead boat. * * * Well, the officials decided the heat had been stopped needlessly; therefore the real lead boat gets the 1st-place points and Cantrell's record is intact all the way. Meanwhile heat I-B was rerun and (SURPRISE!) went the full ten laps. Russ Schlee in Tahoe Miss was drowned out on the 1st turn-- Bill Muncey also got a bath and came 3rd out of the turn but took Such Crust IV almost immediately, got the U.S.I on the north turn, and from there on it was just a parade.

Meanwhile it is nice that the officials reversed themselves on poor Cantrell, as that gives a win and 400 points to Ron Musson in the Bardahl [I have it in office pool!]

Now if you think that hydro racing is confusing, let me congratulate you on your perspicacity, AND perspicuity-- sometimes the hassles make a Worldcon business session look simple, and this year we are really having some unique and original problems at the Sign of the Gold Cup. Hoo boy. * * * [[and cut to next day-- Aug 6th]] * * *

Well, the rest of the Gold Cup regatta went almost smoothly. Poor ol' Bill Muncey drew into a 5-boat heat, for II-A, with the two large Detroit barges which each leaves a wake like a cruiser, while a couple of dropouts left only 2 boats in II-B, and one of these with its blower out of whack, so rack up 400 cheap points for the U.S. I. One of the oversized barges got bumped out of the final heat, so poor ol' Bill Muncey only had to cope with the other beeg one plus 3 other hot boats, poor guy. So who won?

Why, poor ol' Bill Muncey, of course! Who did you think? It's a habit of his.

Meanwhile, back at the office, I found out today that the pool was not all riding on first-place, and collected four bucks on Ron Musson's 2nd-place finish in Bardahl. Anybody who comes in second and pays 3 to 1 can't be all bad.

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HOW MANY IN THE CROWD ATTENDED THE CHICON [as of the time you read this, of course]?

OK, how many attended the banquet? Fine. OK now, how many did not attend the banquet but dropped in later to hear all the speeches for free? Shame on you last.

Banquet prices always seem too high for the meal you get, don't they? Sure they do. Heck, you can look at a menu and find the same thing cheaper. Sure you can.

However, the price of a banquet ticket includes more than the menu-price of the meal. To begin with, all banquets are provided for menu-price plus an obligatory tip [a flat percentage of total menu-prices], plus state or city taxes if any-- Both Washington and Illinois have 4% state sales taxes, by the way. So right there, if you start off with say a \$4 meal, and say a 13% tip required, you have \$4.68 on the bill.

Now let's have a look up at the head table: there we see our Master of Ceremonies or Toastmaster, our Guest of Honor, perhaps a couple of other speakers, and their wives or girl friends or what have you. These people are traditionally and rightfully entitled to the free feed for their services. So these meals, plus tax and tip, must be paid for out of the banquet proceeds-- any Committee that does not try to arrange it so that the banquet is a fully self-supporting item is a fatheaded Committee, since a Con contains enough money-losing items already. Also there are the expenses of having the reservation cards and tickets printed; I bet you forgot that, huh?

Since on our hypothetical \$4 dinner [menu-price, and believe me that is pretty damn hypothetical for an evening meal with all the help working at swingshift rates] we had already added 68¢ just on the paid tickets, I trust you will see that the speakers' plates, printing, etc, do not make a \$1 markup over menu price at all excessive if the banquet is to break even rather than being a drain on other Con funds. On \$4, that is; if you start at \$5 which is more realistic for evenings, it is hard to see how the tickets can go for less than \$6.25. Which happens to be the top price for the Chicon banquet this year. Exactly 75¢ more than Seacon's top price for an afternoon banquet, in fact. And I want you should believe me, Mac-- our prices were the result of long and bitter wrangling with the hotel's catering directress, who tried her best, every time she thought she saw an opening, to jack up the hotel's prices to us. [G.M., you sat in on one of those sessions with Jim and me vs Little Doris the Hatchet Lady. Tell all these nice people that I kid them not, willya, huh?]

OK then, everybody who skipped the banquet but came in to hear the speeches that had been paid for by those who did attend the banquet: if you skipped because you just plain couldn't see your way clear to afford, or because you could not meet the sartorial requirements and still get your suitcase shut, or because you have dietary restrictions the hotel could not meet-- etc, etc-- OK, you guys stand down and relax. But if you copped out just to save a little loot you didn't really need, because the price looked to be out of line-- well, if it is OK with you, I would like you to feel a little bit guilty about that maneuver. Not too much, mind you, especially if you didn't know the score previously-- just feel guilty enough so's you'll remember how it goes, in future.

End of sermon, end of stencil, and end of No Place #10. This has been a fast job of action in order to make sure that I hit the mailing despite the Chicon trip. --Buz.