

NOTES FROM ARINAM

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For the 148 Mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association
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A Marinated Publication ✕

Sigh. My old typing plate which I have used for 10, these many years, seems to have acquired a rip and has been consigned to the pyre. I have, fortunately, a substitute. A Gestetner typing plate which has been buried in the cabinet and which I discovered when I was moving things around with the stirring stick looking for mimeograph ink. I found no ink but I did find the typing plate.

I was, you see, cranking out DYNATRON #59 and noticed that the repro was beginning to look a bit faded. Hmm, I hmed. Could it be that the ink supply is getting low? I grabbed an electric torch, removed the cap from the ink drum and stuck my eyeball inside. The ink supply was not only low it was nigh to nonexistent. And, as indicated above, none to be had in the house and I didn't feel like drive 10 miles through the 110° heat to stock up what with the chances being pretty good that Sears wouldn't have any in stock when I got there. What to do? Aha! Inspiration. Were I an artist I would draw a lightbulb in here. I should have drawn one in the drum--dark in there. I poured a quarter of a cup of olive oil into the drum and finished running off Dynatron.

Dynatron, the edible fan-zine.

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THE FANTASY AMATEUR #147. This Boggs chap just has to be the propositionist president we've had. Always coming up with another proposition. He is, one might say, dedicated to the proposition. I wonder if he has considered going into politics? Had he been around Albuquerque these past few months he could have ran for Mayor. Everybody else did. Except Speer. He ran for judge. I'll let him tell you about that if he wants to.

Albuquerque, for the past forty or fifty years, has been mis-governed by the commission/manager form of city government. Suddenly the commission decided that things had gotten into such a bloody mess that there really should be someone to blame it all on so a proposition was put to the people of the city to change the form of government to a paid mayor/city council. Some of the voters turned out and approved the proposition.

A call went out for candidates. It was answered. 39 people filed for mayor and more than 100 filed for the nine commission seats.

The newspapers, radio and television stations screamed. How could they possibly handle an election with that many candidates? Very poorly.

The many candidates for mayor included several local political types, former city commission members, state legislators, and the like,

a likely number of people just out for publicity, and a few nuts who wanted the job so they could save the city from the communists, Bilderbergers, Illuminati, Insiders, and other conspiratorial groups (including, perhaps, even the Fifth Men) who are lurking on every street corner.

Eventually the election was held and a former city commissioner and a former city manager ended up in the runoff. When the runoff was held the former city commissioner was duly elected mayor of Albuquerque. He takes office on 1 July. He's a pig.

But to get back to President Boggs and his proposition...Juffus might be a good choice for official archivist if he has the time. Jack has, you see, this shed located in a secret spot in the deserts of eastern New Mexico where he stores all his fannish material. He has, undoubtedly, all of the mailings out there somewhere.

I worry about that, though. It reminds me of Joe Gibson's prozine collection. When Joe left New Mexico years and years ago he was determined that his prozine collection would not go astray so he took it out on Albuquerque's west mesa and buried it. He has forgotten where. Somewhere, out there in the shadow of the volcanos, is a treasure in old prozines including a Volume 1, Number 1 of ASTOUNDING.

Rather like the Lost Dutchman, isn't it? Now that I have divulged the secret I can see hordes of fen, stricken with prozine-fever, their stakes loaded on little burros, wandering around the desert west of Albuquerque searching for the Lost Gibson Prozine Collection.

Do you realize that 5% of FAPA are Albuquerqueans?

THE DEVIL'S WORK (Metcalf): The problem is that, as you say, too many writers are in the field who know nothing about it. And there are too many products of creative writing classes who have found that SF is almost the only field left for short stories. And too many people who are looking at the "literary" aspects of SF. I would just as soon all these "great writers" left the field and let us get back to science fiction.

I have been wondering...did you visit me some years back or was that someone else passing himself off as you?

What non-fannish programming would you eliminate from conventions?

PHILOSOPHICAL GAS 26 (Bangsund): Your description of sun, surf, sand and empty beaches makes me envious, John. It is next to impossible to find an empty beach in this country any more. The great "westward tilt" (as somebody or other put it) have filled our beaches with population and pollution (which are synonymous). Sand and sun and surf. Yes. I also enjoy sand and surf and fog. It was always a pleasure to stroll along the beaches in the Bay Area with sound and vision both muffled by the coal, white fog.

I understand that Australia is actually soliciting immigrants these days? A poor policy. Stay with a relatively empty continent.

I suppose it is the fannish thing to do to go on about our mundane activities. Joyce Ketz used to go on at length about mundane activity and personal life. Once I asked her why but she never replied. I am too private a person to go on at any length about my personal life and my mundane activities are, egad, too mundane to be of any interest.

Consider the past week...and leaving out the normal nine-to-five job activity (seven-to-three-thirty, actually, but nine-to-five has come to be accepted as the conventional working hours...I wonder what it would be like not to have to go to the lab until nine?)...it has been a rather unusual week. For one thing the temperature here has been over 100° F for more than two weeks, no rain in sight and the winds are hot and dry, a situation which calls for irrigating some portion of the place every day. Two of my pumps went out at the same time. Great.

The one over at the other house was fairly easy to fix although I decided that I might as well clean out the well while the thing was down. The wells are driven points, go down about 50 feet. So I uncovered the pipe but there was no way I could get the cap off it. I soaked it in penetrating oil, pounded, pushed, pulled, and generally wore myself out to no avail. A plumber acquaintance said I might be able to break the cap loose if I heated it so I applied a small propane torch to the thing with negative results. No, he said, really heat it. Get an acetylene torch. Ummmm. I have a neighbor who does welding so I'll probably go over to see him tomorrow and see if his equipment is portable enough to bring over here. Either that or just cover the damn thing over and hope A.V. Saul comes in one of these days. Saul keeps a herd of equipment here and has an especially equipped truck complete with welding gear and almost anything else useful in working metal. Problem is, the last I heard of him he was over in Tucson working at a copper mine.

The other pump at my own place (well, they are both my places but I have the one rented out) was completely shot. The pump repairman told me it would cost \$75 to repair it. I couldn't see putting out that much on a twelve-year-old pump when I could buy a new one for \$110 which is what I did. Installed it Thursday and it has been running ever since trying to catch up on watering.

And then there's firewood...which might seem strange with summer coming on strong. We had a couple of trees taken down and the chap who did the job sawed them up to fireplace length but, alas, most of the logs are not fireplace thickness so I've been splitting logs.

Not too much of that at any one time, though. A couple at a time in the morning before the sun--and the temperature--get too high.

We don't really have all that much land here--only an acre but it is a job to keep it up unless I want to let it revert completely to desert.

We are giving serious thought to moving from Albuquerque within the next year or so. In a couple of weeks we'll be heading up into the Pacific northwest to have a look at FMBusby country and this autumn I plan on checking out a couple of spots between Los Angeles and San Francisco that seem promising from this distance. Whether they will still look promising after a visit remains to be seen.

And then again, maybe we won't. I've applied for another job here in Albuquerque which, if it comes through, will be almost impossible to turn down so we'll probably stay here for several more years...probably until I retired unless I could find something comparable elsewhere which is unlikely. And I'm not really all that far away from retirement--ten years or so.

I am not really putting any great hopes on getting the new job. I applied more than

two months ago and the personnel office has made no moves on it yet. (This is the end of June, by the way.) Of course Monday is New Year's Day so things may begin to show some movement after that.

Sure, it's

New Year's Day. The first of July, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Hell's Bells, John, we are all ignorant. There is far too much to be known for any of us to have a smattering of knowlege about most of it. We specialize and become knowledgeable in one field and remain ignorant in most others. The most we can hope for is to know where to find the references when we need them.

You talk about Brian O'Nolan and I must confess I've never heard of him. But I'm not into literature. Is science fiction literature? ((Not if it's good science fiction.... who said that??))

The Willis item was, well, nostalgic. Maybe we can get a resolution passed at the next worldcon condemning the idiocy in Northern Ireland for depriving fandom of Walt Willis. I wonder if Leigh Edmonds would care to do a piece on Willis as another victim of Christianity?

Your remarks on fannish greats reminds me that Sneary asked us in CAPA to list, in no particular order, the ten fen we thought had had the greatest affect/influence on fandom. Let's see if I can remember my list without digging into the CAPA files: Ackerman, Tucker, Warner, Speer, Degler, Laney, Willis, Bjo, Ted White. Hmmm. That's nine.

You don't mind, John, do you, if I say that, in my humble opinion, Ursula LeGuin, as a science fiction writer, should stick to children's books?

TARGET: FAPA (Eney): I said when I mailed my ~~ballot~~ poll (goddamit, Dick, no matter how I write it, it comes out looking political) to you that you had furnished me with material for a couple of pages of FAPAC. Anything to keep those pages rolling. Got to stay ahead of the HonSec who gives me zero credit for 20 pages. (The HonSec is going to shoot me if I don't lay off.)

Let us, then, he said with a wink, consider For Fun and Prophet (because I won't pass up a chance to expound on my ignorance and biases (are we back with Bangsund again?).

1. Space exploration progresses/escalates. I checked "possible" although "likely" might have been the better answer. When Armstrong and Aldrin walked the moon there was a great--belay that--there was an outcry, amplified by the television people, that all that money could have been better spent on such noble projects as giving it to the poor welfare recipients in the cities. Three or four congressional types even took it up. That cry has died down as the realization arose that there wasn't that much political hay to be made from it.

Space exploration is dependent on the needs and desires of the military establishment. It will continue at, at least, its present level and likely will escalate. The fact is that the overall strategic weapons concept is under review. The increasing sophistication of spy satellites has made missile hardstands vulnerable and even the missile submarines are easily spotted and tracked. There will be increasing pressure on the part of the military to move the strategic force off Earth completely, to "hide" it in the depths of space where it is less likely to be knocked out by a first strike. The reason for Skylab was not to conduct a host of valuable

scientific experiments but to see if men can operate efficiently during prolonged space missions.

Space is likely to have a low profile for the next few years while "detente" is being tested to see if it is more profitable than confrontation but plans are being drawn and I expect we will see increased activity in space before the end of the century.

2. Rejection of science by the public. This is always a possibility. The yahoos are always there, in one form or another. Note that in Donn Brazier's TITLE the old dero devotee, Richard Sharpe Shaver, is preaching "ecowar". Stop the machines! Enough agitation, amplified by television, could stir up the dinks to the point where they would actually try to stop the machines.

The results, if they did accomplish that, would be most interesting. Yes. We certainly wouldn't have to worry about the population explosion any more.

3. Military establishments/militarism increasing; Nuclear Club expands. Oh, yes, very likely. The Nuclear Club is already expanding as is evidenced by India's recent successful detonation of a bomb and Nixon's offer of nuclear assistance to the Arabs. While the latter is professed to be for peaceful purposes (of which I thoroughly approve) you can bet that the Arabs will be doing their utmost to come up with a Bomb.

4. No major or nuclear war. Possible if the US & USSR can keep the rest of the world under control. There is always the possibility, tho, that some minor group, such as the Palestinian guerillas, could start one. See Thomas Scortia's Earthwreck.

4. Dissolution of East/West tension. Unlikely. It is too profitable on both sides. And what would the leaders of both sides do if they did not have their opposite number bogeymen to wave in front of the dinks to keep them loyal? Work for the glory of the state otherwise the

- a. Russians
- b. Chinese
- c. Americans
- d. Europeans
- e. all of the above

will take us over.

5. Internal disorder in Communist Empire; new regimes. I'm not at all sure what Eney means by "Communist Empire." Surely, Dick, you don't still believe in a "monolithic communist conspiracy"? But internal disorder in the communist states...that's possible, particularly in China. New regimes are also possible, particularly in China as the leaders there are getting quite old. The passing of Mao and Chou will undoubtedly bring about a power struggle. Dissidence seems to be surfacing in the USSR but it is unlikely to reach any major proportions.

Decay of US power; isolationism. A possibility when looked at in terms of current internal affairs. The US is weakened presently by the internal dissent generated by the Nixon administration. Once Nixon passes from the scene (12:00 noon, 20 January 1977) I look for a general strengthening of U.S. power.

7. Mutual cooperation & foreign assistance decline. Entirely possible, depending on the weather. Under normal circumstances things will go on pretty much as is. Should drought conditions throughout the world increase--and current climate conditions indicate that this is possible--with the resultant crop failures, we are likely to see some interesting changes.

8. Realignments, new Great Powers emerge: likely, I should think. Almost any nation which has nukes and the means to deliver same must be considered a great power (which may call for some international conferences and eventually force nuclear controls). The Arab states, with their vast revenue from oil, the leverage they have because of the need for oil, and nuclear assistance to be provided by (probably) both the US & the USSR, will surely emerge as Great Powers. Brush up on your Koran, babe.

9. Regional/subregional unity: unlikely. Consider the fact that the Common Market has been around for a number of years and has done little to unify Europe. Nationalism is too deeply ingrained.

10. Gap between developed & underdeveloped nations narrows. Not bloody likely. If the so-called underdeveloped nations were of any real value the colonial powers would never have let them go. The industrial nations will continue to take what raw materials they need from the rest of the world but will contribute little towards helping them develop on their own. It just doesn't pay.

11. Widespread general economic growth; true per capita income rises. Very unlikely. As throughout history the rich will get richer and the poor will get more numerous...and poorer. Generally I would say that the economic outlook for the next quarter-century is very bad. The climate promises to make food harder to come by which means it is going to be more expensive. Shortages are developing on almost any front you can think of. I'd guess that a lot of us are going to be scratching at a mere subsistence level before this century is over.

Unless, of course, the possibilities of technology are brought into full use and we switch to an abundance economy instead of one based of artificial scarcity and start such things as deep mining, desalination of sea water, et bloody cetera.

12. Polarization of social/racial groups; conflict, protest: Very likely, particularly as food grows scarcer--along with everything else.

13. Nonmaterial culture advances; non-materialist values elevated: Highly unlikely. Such esoteric oriental concepts are dead ends.

14. Trend toward authoritarianism; rise of military regimes or charismatic leaders. Very likely. Most of the world lives under authoritarian regimes now. We may have barely escaped. 1984--Ten more years and counting.

Ecologically enlightened use of resources; environmental improvement. It is devoutly to be wished but I doubt it. Note how quickly the environmental improvement program here in the states folded under the "energy crisis."

Oh, I tell you, I just love these high-level state department type questions. By golly, I think we have pretty well plotted out the future of the world. What's old Henry got that I ani't got, Dick? Send me in, coach, I'll solve the Middle East problems. You betchum. Arm the Kurds, reestablish the Mitanni Kingdom and drive those bloody Arabs all the way back to their penninsula. They've been a pain in the ass for 5,000 years.

Your "Chronicles of Repression" brings to mind that one of the burning (book burning, of course) issues in the recent Albuquerque city election was a proposition that read something like this: "Shall the City Commission attempt to write an ordinance controlling the sale, distribution, display and exhibition of pornographic material?"

Gad, note the strong, positive wording of that resolution. It was on the ballot like that, I understand, because the City Attorney told the Commission he doubted that they could write an anti-obscenity ordinance that would stand up in court.

Ah, but it was an issue that raised much heat.

Albuquerque has about half-a-dozen (or a half-dozen, if you prefer, it makes no difference to me) porn movie houses and they all advertise in the daily papers. Most of the objection to the porn houses is to that advertising (Why do the papers print those filthy ads there where the children can see them?) although it might be noted that the ads for the health spas show more skin than do the ads for the porn flics. The letters to the editor columns of the papers were filled with pros and cons and the subject took up much time on the radio talk shows. One of the local talk stations came out solidly against porn and urged their massive bloc of listeners to vote for the referendum. I'm sure they did--all 37 of them. (True. One day the station asked their listeners to call in so the size of the listening audience could be judged. 37 people called.)

The referendum passed by about 20,000 votes but so far nothing much has happened. The porn movies are still doing business as are the topless bars and, egad, those filthy magazines like PLAYBOY and GALAXY are still on the newsstands.

What does it all mean?

Back to BANGSUND for a moment: Willis erred in declaring that the Irish language was the oldest in Europe. In Western Europe that honor, distinction, rather, goes to Basque which predates the Keltic dialects by several thousand years. In Eastern Europe one finds many incredibly ancient languages still being used in the Caucasus.

PATTER (Doerr): Considering everything you are gathering together, it sounds as if you are getting ready to find a refuge from the forthcoming collapse of civilization. Do you think it will do you any good? Granted that you might survive the initial shock but would you then be able to cope with the wild ones that will be roaming the countryside? Of course, with a boat and all you may be planning to sail away to the far Pacific.

In answer to your question as to which weapon would give man the best chance for survival on a dangerous world...a gun, of course.

Ah, but that is not what you meant, you say. Allow me, as an old warrior, to tell you that's the game, though. I will always choose a gun in preference to any other weapon. Well, not always. A knife or a noose if you want to kill silently. But we are speaking of a preferred weapon for survival.

Time was when the horsemen of the steppes, Aryans, Huns, Turks, Mongols, were the most feared warriors in all the world. Their horses and compound bow conquered the world. Then around the 15th or 16th Century, less than 100 Cossacks under the command of a Russian officer put an end to that threat for all time. The Cossacks were armed with guns.

You say the Constitution can be revoked by the people at any time. Maybe. It seems to me that some of the people tried that back about 1860. It didn't work.

ERG 46 (Jeeves): Very good to see this in FAPA. I have seen only one or two issues of ERG in the past but that is my fault, I suppose, for not keeping my overseas trades up--a situation I am currently trying to remedy.

That cover...Gad, the work involved. Fabulous.

Lots of good material behind it, too. "Fans Across the Sea" brings to mind the difficulty most of us over here have in coming to grips with the multitude of European languages. After all, there's 200 million + of us and we all speak English (or "Amuricun" as it's called these days) and so do our neighbors to the north. Of course our neighbors to the south talk Meskin but if you holler loud enough you can get them to understand. Or, at least, that's what the Teskins tell me.

If Europe really gets inter-country television going it will probably eliminate all that. I note with some amusement the efforts of France and Russia (and probably others) to periodically purge their languages of creeping English. I don't suppose it does much good, though.

I'm not at all sure that the language will survive on this side of the Atlantic, though, when I hear what is being spoken these days.

Chrystal says I'll have to get me a Selectric typewriter and a Gestetner or somesuch fancy mimeo one of these days. To publish my zines on? What a waste.

I think a pretty good case could be made for a decline in average intelligence. The better educated and more intelligent people of the world have been limiting family size for some time now where as the less intelligent continue to breed at fantastic rates. The average is bound to decline. Studies of college entrance examinations here over the past ten years have reflected a steady decline in the average of scores achieved.

The dumb, not the meek, shall inherit the Earth.

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20TH CENTURY UNLIMITED (Porter): Sigh. All this chasing after the Hugo becomes a bit wearying but if that's your goal, have at it.

On the question of what is or isn't the criteria for a fanzine--or amateur magazine, if you will, I see nothing at all wrong with making a profit or accepting paid advertising. The amount of profit to be made from a fanzine strikes me as being rather small. Paid advertising...it would be nice to help pay the bills. I would opine, though, that if the editor/publisher is paying the contributors for their material then he his no longer publishing an amateur magazine. Pay = Professional in any game.

Anyway, y'all have fun, heah?

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Line 50 on page 8. 8. Stop, that's enough. I've got to get some ink and some paper and some ambition and get this run off and in the mail to the OE before we take off for the Northwest and Canada. It will be far too late if I wait until we return.

ETHEL LINDSAY FOR TAFF

Roytac