



Hi everyone -- It's April 20, just received the apa #4 and resolved to do it in bits and pieces this time, not one marathon at Ellas. It's been a relatively good few weeks—though I didn't get the graphic design job and so am still scrambling for freelance work. But it feels good to be successful at that (well, at least to the extent that I am avoiding eviction). I've been rather productive with JANUS work, lots of articles and if it gets done on time, a story which I feel good about and which may still not get in if I decide I'd rather submit it for publication elsewhere. (Where is the best paying market for feminist sf now? Is there one?) I missed out on the job, it turns out, because first, they already had somebody in mind for the position before they advertised, and second, with a reason like that why should I bother imagining more reasons? Bitter bitter. Ah well. As I was saying, however, the past weeks have gone well. One of the articles going into JANUS this time (#8), I think, is going to attract lots of letters accusing me of being a man-hater, a la Russ. Goody, goody. (You know you've made it when...) The article is a pre-publication review of Suzy McKee Charnas' THE MOTHERLINES, and says a lot of things about institutionalized misogyny in patriarchal cultures having perverted the concept of motherhood, and the need for a period of separatism, as individuals and/or as a group, for women trying to define new institutions that are not debasing to us. I had planned to reproduce some of it here but now (the now being the time of the typing, not the aforesaid April 20, time of the writing) I realize that JANUS will be coming out this week anyhow and I should let you all just read it there. I don't have my ms here anyway; the galleys are still out somewhere being proofed. We are publishing the article along with some comments Suzy made upon reading my critique and also some further thoughts from Jan Bogstad, my co-editor. Also there are WISCON reports; I pretty much just repeat what I said about it last time in my apa-zine (thanks for the correction, Gary). Jan, though, will be saying more, especially from her much much more political point of view, (in comparison and contrast to mine, I mean. I tend to see things from the opposite end of the tunnel, personally, psychologically, at most, a cultural/artistic level. Jan is a Marxist, and well, we disagree a lot: Whether mysogyny or capitalism is the basic baddie, with respect to any individual woman's experience, for instance.) Also in #8, it was my turn to do the fanzine reviews, which was a real experience. So far there've been about 50 zines—doing the reviews seemed like doing the 1st apa mailing comments installment.

On the basis of that last experience, let me recommend MYTHOLOGIES #11 (Don D'Amassa, ed.) to those of you who haven't seen it yet. George Fergus firmly and with impressive research, trounced silly Jerry Pournelle who predictably didn't much notice. But Fergus' article (very long, very enjoyable) is really a good overview of basic feminist research in, and connections between a lot of vital fields: biology, psychology, anthropology, archeology, history, etc. In the areas I am most familiar with, George shows impeccable bibliographical knowledge. It's too bad though that he didn't publish a bibliography along with it. On second thought though, knowing him, if you ask I would bet he'd be able to provide you with one. It was probably just too much to print in MYTHOLOGIES. (Which, in case you wish to follow this up can be gotten from Don D'Amassa, 19 Angell Drive, E. Providence, RI 02914.)

JANUS is going to be good this time (and long: this from the future typist again, interrupting to comment. I'm on page 30 of layout and have about half to go yet.) I always feel reasonably confident at this point though, recalling if you will, the neurosis that strikes me only after the deed is done that I described last time. If my memory serves me, I seem to have felt that way about the first issue of JANUS, gawd. By the way, JANUS is not a clubzine and you're all welcome and invited to participate. | plan - at least with this issue - to send you all copies.

To begin some mailing comments now, but perhaps to be interspersed and interrupted with other things... [not however with many or any illos I'm afraid; I'm typing this on the deadline again. Lesleigh Luttrell and Hank will be going to DisCon and Les suggests that I send some copies of the apa along with her. There will be/is one illo at least here that has a rather weird story. I was drawing for a friend to show her what I consider a sometimes unsavory portrayal of women by Franzetta, trying to give her an example, and so did this drawing --which, no matter how I tried to add objectionable-making details (open zipper, etc.), the more I found I liked the drawing. Strange to have a drawing "not turn out" in such a manner...]

ANNE-LAURIE

I'm glad Janet gave us pp. 3-4 of ALL HOMAGE TO THE TRIPLE GODDESS—I feel very much the same as you do about the importance of myth-making as art form, as well as for personal orientation in sf and as a writer. The story-in-progress, mentioned above, is along these lines.

I'll check into Janeway's book.

I disagree with you about it being too late for adults in our society (having to wait till unbiased children grow up and alter societal expectations, etc.). As an adult now myself I won't take that point of view: I believe that though it's certainly harder to live in a certain way without cultural approval, it's not impossible. The important part is interior, personal commitment. Anyway, you can accumulate your own select group, your own small society in effect to which you go for input, support, advice, etc. (an easy thing to do in an "unreal", "isolated" university community for instance. I remember my father advising me to try working for a while in Milwaukee, in a factory, to find out how the "real" world would react to my lifestyle and philosophy. Disgarding questions about which place has the most--ahem--real people, I still can't say anything but, "why?" I'm here so I can find support and energy for what I'm doing. Would a swimmer be any A better person if they moved to a landlocked place with no pools? Shouldn't a scholar stay in proximity to a library? Why would I be a better person living among people who most probably would be largely antagonistic to my beliefs?) It's going to be a long time before a large part of our society is open to feminist ideals. As an individual, and one of those people who won't be contributing liberated kids to the cause, I'm not going to wait for your children to grow up and make things better, nor do I think this is the only hope. If individuals cannot change within themselves, they won't have much better luck in raising liberated kids.

Janet

This whole Tiptree business is becoming rather awful. I hope she isn't hurt by any of this. I just read Racoon Sheldon's excellent story "The Screwly Solution" in the June ANALOG (It is really good, but I don't want to give anything away), and I started me thinking. Tiptree had extraordinary luck in selling "his" first stories: nearly everything was accepted. And I wonder if Racoon has had equally good luck... Certainly, considering the amount of undercover experience she's had, her stories should be even better than Tip's first ones.

Congratulations again, on a great job of organizing the WAPA. I certainly will support you in the future election(s). If you get a lot of requests for membership in the future and a long waiting list develops, perhaps it would be a good idea for another apa to form. Certainly, I don't really want membership

in this one to exceed 40.

Jan Bogstad has qualifiers (UW-Madison, Comparative Lit. Dept.) coming up [and, the future typist speaking again: she passed them] so, unfortunately, she won't make the deadline (for a postmailing). Maybe after things are a little more settled for her, she will be able to join.

Ann                     What an exciting time this must be for you: quitting a secure job, striking out on an adventure. I won't say anything practical now: I really envy and, at the same time, identify with your decision. I too gave up a pretty secure future (following an Urban Studies degree which I decided not to pursue) in exchange for a risky attempt at writing/drawing/editing, hoping--still--to eventually make a living (not necessarily be "successful," just make a nice adequate living...) at something I love to do. So it's partially self-head-patting to say I think you are courageous and clear in self-understanding.

I heard about the MARCON Wapa incident from Candice Massy at Minicon a couple [MANY] weeks ago. It sounds as if the success in that case of an attempt to create a temporary feminist environment at a convention, says things about the growing controversy of such a thing this year at Suncon. (I'm sure Gary Farber will have a lot to say about what is going on in that arena.) Certainly I look forward to a feminist fan room, but I don't think I support plans to make it exclusively for women. Not that it would be unfair, but simply that there are some male feminists that I'd like to see and talk to in such a place, and furthermore: Marcon's message seems to be that if someone attempts to spoil the atmosphere we wish to protect, we can do something about it. Then. As you did with the Male Chauvanist Frog.

Also at Minicon I was glad to meet Cy Chauvin and Alicia and Paul Madarasz. We had a small Wapa gathering in a room belonging to a couple of Madstfians after a series of comical evictions from four other rooms before that (No hostility just bad timing). I hope eventually to meet all or most of you soon; I have the hardest time remembering who I am talking to without a face, or something visual attached to the recollection (like how your zine looks/is set up: but it gets bothersome to run to my files whenever I get confused.).

I hope you're not too confident and dependant on "lunaception"--I just don't trust such things (Avedon?--). In connection to such, a "bandaid sterilization" is an easy operation done here in Madison and a growing number of other places which is done by fusing the fallopian tubes with a lazer beam. First your abdomen area is filled with gas (?I forget what--but the gas gradually floats up to your sholder areas resulting in the only side-effect, i.e., sore sholders for a day or so),--this so that they can see clearly what they aim for. One beam goes through the navel, the other through the side of your belly. Result=one little pinpoint scar (and bandaid, thus the label) and two deadend tubes. A couple months later dyes are injected into the tubes and watched via X-Ray to make sure there's not been a detour saved. That's it. Relatively non-reversible. I can't wait, \*sigh\*. A couple years ago my roommate had it done, (now, I send Vike Happy Non-Motherhood cards every May), and at the time it scared me a little because I realized that according to all my avowed personal and political beliefs that's what I should do. Gradually, the idea became a more comfortable and quite definite expectation. Only money prevents immediate action. The operation is expensive if your insurance doesn't (but it often does) cover it: \$600 thereabouts.

Where does the prophesy come from that says "The world will not be saved until a hero comes who can bleed without a wound." ? I like it and would like to follow up on it and see it in context.

You should have received by now a copy of that goofed p. 3. of OBSESSIONS2.

MZB Welcome, Marion; thank you for the biography.

Gina I was hoping for another chapter...

Margret Henry Hello... .

Sandi Starting with your description of feelings following your breakup with (breakout from?) Mike, I started finding all sorts of things in HEARTWOOD that make me want to sit down and have a long conversation with you. Especially about the end of your relationship with Mike: Why does it take so long to get over even when you know it's the best thing that happened to find out and get out (whether by choice or surprise eviction)? Something Cy Chauvin said about intimate relationships applies here with a wrench and a twist of the knife: that once having experienced such closeness, you discover a reservoir/capacity for pain that you never knew existed. But the thing is: you can't go back. You can never go back to when you didn't reach out and touch or to where you look for the possibilities of that kind of joy—and that kind of pain. Once tasted, we are all addicts. I/we/Cy looks back and wonders if the innocents (the ones who've not yet felt and experienced the joy and winced at the hurt) aren't better off than the ones who "know."

[Thank you Cy, for the "care packet." I'm very glad you're in the apa.]

Other things I resonate with in HEARTWOOD: —the incredible debt to close women friends who help us get through, let us cry and fall apart and help us to stand up again, straighter and stronger and with clearer vision. I too have some non-fan as well as fan women friends here in Madison to whom I sometimes think I owe my life to. They are ~~more~~ more than a family than my parents ever were, though near to what my brothers and sister and I are now/still creating, (rather than assuming to exist as birth givens).

And the need for places to give room to feelings. And wondering if it is possible to find a man with whom I can share intimate friendships of the type I share often with women.

Your response to Victoria about CR groups started me thinking. Yes, as you said, the "horror stories" are a part of the process. We begin there, and that's what makes it unlikely that I will join another formal CR group. I've been in several; they have been wonderful and Good Things for me and my psyche. But it would be terribly hard going through the early and, in fact—now—, most of the "stages" of a CR group. There are stages, and that's what I started thinking about. The stage of horror stories ("My mother thinks that I..."; "At the office I work the men...," on and on) is necessary: it is the stage where we exorcize our anger and only when that is done is it even possible to construct new dreams and devise new behaviors.

In connection to stages of CR groups, it also seems that there are stages in the making of an intimate friendship. (Not necessarily sexual, you understand—) Those first times, discovering another person, opening gradually to them, making relationships that are, to me, one of the most important aspects of my life—the first times, the process is exciting and wonderful. But after a while you know the stages, you know how much work and energy goes into the making of this kind of relationship and if you're in the position of having to start all over again (as is a good friend of mine, just moved to Berkeley), all you know is that you need the closeness of those long-tended intimate friendships and there's so much work to do to get there with new people. You wonder if it is ever possible to make happen again: maybe it was all just incredible luck that you and those people who became friends ever got together in the first place. The shallowness of beginning-relationships is much more apparent when you do not yet have for comparison the knowledge of what it can still become.

It's easy to move (geographically) when you haven't gone through this. I notice that most of us seem to be relatively committed to a certain place not so

much for the geographic aspects of that place, but for the investment we have in the people there.

Back to the resonances... Your mention of sociobiology seems close to my excitement with the recent Anthropological-Psychological studies that are attempting to understand women's and men's role from an evolutionary-cultural standpoint. Looking at givens (like motherhood, sexuality, hierarchy structures) as institutions that have changed through humankind's lifetime.

I could get into Adrienne Rich's OF WOMAN BORN here easily, but I won't: It is the book I used in my review of Charnas' THE MOTHERLINES to interpret the latter book. It is excellent though: treating motherhood as an institution perverted by ~~MYSTIFICATION~~ institutionalized mysogyny.

I AGREE: DAMN IT, WHY AREN'T THERE ANY BATHS FOR WOMEN? OR FOR WOMEN AND MEN?

Sarah

I've avoided entering in on the smallish Female Man discussion here. I read it once, enjoyed it immensely, and don't care at all for arguments about whether it qualifies as a novel or not. To be able to say whether a thing is a novel or whether something is sf or not, simply seems absurd ways to avoid talking about a piece of literature. It does seem though that most definitions of "novel," in connection to FM have to do with your feeling about its failure as "your average recreational read." As I said, I enjoyed it immensely whatever its label. But I won't say much else because I read it quite a while ago though I'm planning to reread it at some point.

Speaking of books—I was frustrated by your capsulation of the Chesler-Mead "face-off" as you called it. You said, "I didn't ~~HEAR~~ hear anything important said; nothing you can't read in books." Seeing how exciting these two women are in written form, (especially Chesler in Women & Madness), and further considering my confusion about what these ~~two~~ people would have to debate about, I'd really like to hear a little more. At least tell me what the main areas of their disagreement were. (The cultural implications to and for women who are classified as "mad?" The role of therapists in society, then and now?... I know what Chesler would have to say about these things if these were the topics, but I'd be really curious about how Mead feels differently, or how she sees Chesler's arguments to be cultural phenomena...)

It sounds like the workshop with Chesler was excellent. It is interesting to look back on times of personal strength and think about whether or not one was given support. I think it has a lot to do with who was or was not the supporter. My parents emphatically do not support (they tolerate) my decisions to reject Catholicism, live in an un-married & to them, hedonistic fashion, nor my opting for uncertain/not financially secure role of artist as opposed to professional urban planner. All these are decisions of strength to me. On the other hand, most of my close friends supported me when I desperately needed affirmation of the rightness of my decisions concerned with my leaving Dave, and other difficult episodes.

M. R. Hildebrand

I think the fine thing about feminism is that it has mostly to do with self-definitions, systems of finding and claiming self-worth. That you reject opportunities to judge other women's particular brands of feminism or even other people's brands of humanity has little to do with whether or not you are a feminist, ie., that you want options as a human being not limited because of your sex.

I don't like the theory about men not needing to communicate emotions verbally. I agree that they don't do it much but I think it's a behavioral deficit not a biological difference, one that men I know had better make an attempt to change. This connects to the comments about digging holes and articulated commitments that I went into in OBSESSIONS #4.

Rape, a "legitimate retaliation?" Sorry, no way do I go along with that. Yes, a lot of women are very angry and saying some strong things, perhaps wrong things, in an attempt to separate for a while and find new strengths. But to suggest that this anger may be a valid/legitimate new rationalization for the very same misogyny that those women, that we are saying those strong things about, is a frightening and horrible threat. And further incentive to get all the more angry. We can't be scared into moderation and back into passive acceptance by a contemptable threat that we will ~~make~~ <sup>make</sup> them angry and increase our own oppression (making us the guilty ones?). No.

Rebecca                    Hope you've made it through second-terms with less anxiety than the first.

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I am reading and doing mailing comments as I find the time, and considering the impressive number of people now in WAPA, making long comments in a rather haphazard manner, saying something only when I am particularly struck by something said. I'm reading all the zines, and this zine will probably be my longest [IF I can type it all it time: I may have to cut short and include the rest of the comments with a postmailing or the next ~~aga~~], but am just going to have to let some zines go with only a line or so of comment.

Denys                    Thank you for reprinting "Coming Out To Your Family" here. My brother Eric came out to our parents two years ago at Christmas time, home from his home in San Francisco for the holidays, where he's lived with his partner, Danny for nearly 5 years now. My other brother and I had known for quite a while before that(me: many years) and the sharing of that knowledge and comensurate sharings of other struggles of mine and Steve's has made the three of us very close. I'm sorry the same wasn't true for you and your bother and sister. But indeed, it is hard to predict (and so painful when you wrongly predict) a parent's reaction. My mother's (a devout Catholic) most painful reaction was that Eric could not have childran/a Catholic family, and that he was damned. Eric had always been her favorite (not an imagined Smother's bros. quibble on my part, but strangely admitted vocally by both parents of my mother's feelings for Eric), and the news came as quite a blow to her. My father was afraid that she was going to have a breakdown. I don't know about whether or not that was really a possiblity or not but at least neither of them has had too much exposure to Freud and so didn't get into finding fault with mom's love for Eric. My father was and is deeply sad about the whole thing--not so much that Eric is gay but that, all of us, have in one way or the other radically rejected their morality and life style. Eric and I have both "lived with" men and expouse life styles far removed from a religion centered nuclear family. Though my father is not Catholic, but an estranged Lutheran, he obviously feels a lot of guilt about and cannot be convinced that he is not to blame for the fact that none of us consider ourselves ~~xxx~~ religious in their terms. Steve was recently "found out" to be having sex regularly with his present woman friend and horrible as that was, it was bearable because he is a jock and jocks will be jocks and will eventually marry, etc. But then last summer while he was at home from college, dad found the grass he had stashed in the basement rafters... \*sigh\* Lucky mom didn't find the acid Eric and I had stashed/camoflaged in tin foil amid similar tin foil packets, in the freezer...

But since the main things have come out, I guess my parents have accepted it all pretty well. They know they have to, or lose us completely. Mom writes letters to Eric & Danny and signs with love to both of them. She calls me a "swinger" with a slight catch in her voice. What I worry about is the fact that they seem to be getting stricter towards my younger sister (14) and brother (7). (As I said, Mom is Catholic) They don't really want to hear details of our lives and in fact I'm pretty sure that they suspected much of everything before the shit

hit the fan, in any case (dad had guessed about Eric for years before, for example.) and were motivated primarily by not wanting to have to face it. It sounds as if your mother feels like that: she knows but would rather not have to talk about it. If she did though, I don't think you should worry about a reaction from her like that from your father. As you say, there's a lot more between you and your mother than the other. That's important: most people don't throw away love so carelessly. And you may become much closer if you force the issue. (She may think that you don't want to talk about it to her!) Certainly my brothers and I are incredibly close as a result of the sharing of our inner lives and thoughts and I would never want to erase those difficult, painful conversations.

I think your's is the best answer, in regard to making friends, lovers, etc. I agree: to withhold sexuality for artificial reasons from certain people is to withhold a kind of support and to make change all the more difficult. I like the way you think/feel...

I have lots of thought about your comments on separatism but would only duplicate the review of MOTHERLINES in reporting them here. I will appreciate your response to all of that as I am not quite sure whether we disagree or not--whethermy long-range reactions to separatism (as a response & eventualhealing/ changing force in a culture rather than an individual) disagree with your assessment or not.

An aside; I would like to see more MC's like yours and others' in this apa that seem to convey and continue more of a sense of conversation. "Short answer" quickie responses with no clue to what they are responses to, are sometimes frustrating to me. Not that great length is necessary, but enough should be said at least to know what is being talked about instead of ending the exchange. (Typical example: "I'm glad you feel that way about spiders..." and on to another subject.) This is to be a communications network/forum after all, not a CB connection.

As to waiter instead of waitress, it's the added "ess" that I object to. For such words that can be avoided, like manning the station replaced by staffing the station, or words that have been semantically sex-linked, like your examples of "chairman," or "mailman", I use/create new titles (chair, or mail deliverer, etc) But it seems ridiculous to me to add those "ess"es and making the titles sex typed. Waiter or actor do not intrinsically imply sex. Only when there are other words. waitress, actress, beside them, do they aquire it. As someone here said, negress, ~~SEXWOMAN~~ seem absurd and rather awful. It would be like adding an ess to all our new words--chairs, mail deliverers, etc.

Susan                    I don't know how you manage it all... but I'm glad you're here. Lesleigh came back with news about how nice Seattle fandom is (at least the part she met) and telling us how good it was to be friends with you. It certainly would be nice if plans work out and Les and I make it out there for Westercon. (and from there down to San Francisco).

Jennifer                Ah another person to whom I have a face attached to as I read and write! Hello Jennifer.  
 I haven't counted: what is the percentage of those of us in the apa who've experienced rape? It does seem rather high. Most of us are urban but few live in real "ghettos"--so I wonder if the result is an exaggerated or minimized representation.

As to a booklist which Denys suggested in an oblique way too, it may be a good idea for this apa to collect one. My contributions would be, in order of remembering: (and with a lot missing)

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER - Perkins Gilman  
 THE GOLDEN NOTEBOOK - Lessing  
 WOMAN'S EVOLUTION- Reed  
 THE FEMALE IMAGINATION - Spacks  
 THE MAN WHO LOVED CHILDREN - Stead  
 OF WOMAN BORN - Rich  
 FLYING - Millett  
 SURFACING - Atwood

Collette

WOMEN AND MADNESS - Chesler

MAIDEN -Buchanan

WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME -Piercy

WHEN GOD WAS A WOMAN -Stone

THE DIALECTIC OF SEX - Firestone

THE SECOND SEX - De Beavoir

This is a rather off the wall list, but ~~XXX~~ it's pretty clear that my emphasis is literature. Together with other lists we should arrive at a more comprehensive and wider ranging list. Then someone can run it off and it can be known as a WAPA publication and we can sell it to the lay fandom and pay Janet a salary.  
 \*heh heh heh\*

I'd love to see the prints as you no doubt know already since I hopefully will have written to tell you so. June would have been too late to have included the pictures in our #8 issue of JANUS with the conreports.

I agree with you that probably new, more individualistic but still legally binding contracts will take the place of present-day marriages. The new contracts will take ~~XXXXX~~ into account all sorts of life-styles in order to be viable.

Which sets me off thinking of a project in which Jen, Lesleigh and I have agreed to become involved in: that is, on Don D'Amassa's zine MYTHOLOGIES, an issue that will be devoted to "feminist futures" in which several people will "write a description of what a truly equal society would be like." No "fiery rhetoric or abstract discussion...a description--very clear-- of what every day existence would be like for both the male and the female." This, a quote from Don's letter. Well it seems an exciting idea to me, especially as an appropriate follow-up to George Fergus' definitely abstract article (the squash-Pornelle article). One problem though (that of Jan's and Lesleigh's and my basically different approaches to such a project if--as we'd hoped we <sup>could do</sup> it together--has been solved. You will now see what a great impression you all have made upon me in this the first Apa I've participated on: I suggested that we write different mini-zines from an imagined future WAPA. That way, all three of us can write separately and still fuse the things into one whole. Perhaps the names of the apa writers we individually write under will have our initials. I'm thinking of one writer who will belong to a weirdly mutated SCA (the anachronism will be of stereotypic 20th century -1950s emphasis--woman). I've also got quite a few other ideas, but the possibilities of depicting a society from the personal-definition socially aware viewpoint of the WAPA seems ideal for the purposes Dan had described to us.

Karen

I loved Surfacing (she starts looking for her father and truly finds her mother and herself). It's the only Atwood I've read so far. You seem to have read a great deal of her's. Why didn't you like Surfacing? Margaret Lawrence? Another Canadian author? Am I missing something? How about you or Susan giving us a CanLit women's bibliography?

I go to the gay discos too...though I don't usually classify myself as a "hip straight." The two gay bars are the best dancing places in town, and more than that I can go there knowing I won't get hassled by men who assume I've come there for one reason only. Usually I'm there because I'm so tensed up and wound



up and angry/happy and I want to release it in a very physical way. Obviously, at such times, other options are temporarily unavailable and I develop a weird phase-like infatuation with disco music. Under normal circumstances, I am a R.V. Williams/ H. Near/C. Williamson/M. Adams/Prokofiev and other eclectics, freak.

• An aide to you and John Singer: A friend from New York reports that disco is on the way out. To which another friend gasped and dramatically cried out, "Oh God! A CULTURAL VOID!"

Seth Both you and Karen brought up the term "fag hag" in the #4 apa mailing. I don't like the sound of the word, and yes, indeed I know quite a few women in this city that were thus situated for a while, myself included-- Dave accepted being gay and began finding gay friends, and then I introduced him to my brother Eric while he was in town for a long visit and then too, I've always been friends with a lot of Eric's friends... For a while there I thought 90% of Madison was gay. Walking down the street I'd imagine seeing them everywhere. A group of women-friends I knew then formed the FH Society, e.g., Frustrated Horniness Society. We had a group letter magazine then (unknown to me, an apa) called FCMA and reported all sorts of imaginary outlets to our frustration, among them "cross ally bowling ball tag" at the "Bowla-Bowla Bowling Alley." Nice as the people were and, some of them are good friends to this date, I'm glad I'm not into that any more. It was a lot of pain mixed with the advantages of no-hassel, "safe" friendships.

~~that~~ "Frelks"? I couldn't find it in my DANGEROUS VISIONS. But another book on THE SHIP THAT SANG. An uncomfortable and subliminal and all that is Anne McCaffrey's (the captain): "you beautiful thing." O him by her "...he was so gay." The narrator of her: "she was born a thing." And a perfect FH rationalization: "As a shell person, she considered herself remote from emotions, largely connected with physical desires." "He was handsome, they all were." And he touches her (shell) once in a while. How nice. But then it is perfectly safe. Still, the FH/gay relationship resembles traditional marriages in some of its worse ways. Helva gets to chose her "mate" but after that it is his right to chose job location. Jennan considers that he is indeed "married to his ship, to Helva, minus all physicality." Then on a rescue mission they pick up a gang of women--but they're all nuns: Jennan's not frustrated at all though. There's more but you get my drift. That's one story (and author) I don't feel like getting very deeply into: it'd be too sticky.

If you're into Virginia Woolf biographic material, you should definitely read --if you haven't yet--Quentin Bell's biography of Woolf. It's the best so far I think, wonderfully written.

About '40's movies--on the Madison campus here it's easy to do, but more because of a feeling of comfort with the roles women got more often than, than the availability of those films here, I've gone to see a whole lot of them. I agree that it seems as if we've gone down hill since then in some ways.

About the Terry (CTEIN) thing--an error, no inside knowledge. I apologised in a letter for my mistake.

Janus received a note from Dell Books ("Science Fiction and Fantasy News." Among authors listed as writing books that have been acquired and will be published in 1977 is Joanna Russ. This for their new SF line.

JoAnne Some of the things you say make me angry but I've already answered you, so to speak, in a comment in OBSESSIONS #3 to Carrie. And others in the APA have said cogent things about not believing that there is much to sexism because you believe you haven't experienced it or have been able to avoid it.

I think you and I could have quite a few arguments...Well we could agree on M\*A\*S\*H, I guess!..

Mike

Hi. Did Jan give you the Jani at Minicon? I haven't asked her but I've got the feeling you may still be waiting. Let me know and I'll take care of it.

I don't know what to say to you and some of the other men who are somewhat afraid--as you put it--of how their behavior is reacted to by the women in the apa. I don't much like the image of trampling (with letters?) any of you in a "stampede" of anti-male hate. And yet it is good that this apa remain in control of women especially as someone mentioned, since WAPA is getting to be the "in" APA to join.

Terry

Oh but if you had left in the middle of Heinlein's speech at MAC you would have missed his comment about the inevitability of a 3rd WW, and the long whistle heard from the back of the auditorium during the pause that followed, sounding like a bomb dropping. Best part of the evening.

I very much like your comment to Karen about the fine balance "needed between letting your friends know [of your depression/feelings]...and wallowing in self-pity and making yourself a sodden pest." There's only so much anyone can do or say before they must begin to avoid you because of unfair demands. On the other hand, in this struggle between strength and accepting support there is the other danger, of keeping too cool, not letting your friends know and help you validate feelings.

As mentioned earlier in what I am starting to regard with horror, this monster, this Gary Farber zine-like thing, I did mention (didn't I?), that I may be going out to visit CF sometime this summer. (My brother Eric and a couple of very close friends live out there.) Maybe I will and, if so, will call. Maybe I should bring along thermos jugs of water. (I hear it's "the thing" not to flush toilets out there.)

Ctein

Ahem. Sexism. Sexism is a rather superficial word to me --it refers to the manners/behavior of individuals who show respect or lack of respect for other individuals on the basis of their gender rather than their humanity. What it comes down to, for me, is a form of bad manners or set of behavior (often, with very serious repercussions) that ~~is~~ based on something far more basic and pervasive in our society. I.e., institutionalized mysogyny. Woman-hatred may not be a universal individual behavior characteristic, but it is one that is validated by all our institutions (customs, or formal groups, all levels--Educational system to marriage customs to acceptable singles bar behavior.) Sexism then, for me, is individual behavior that is based on and validated by the existence of institutionalized mysogyny. Ahem. End of opinion-definition.

Another hook?

My name is the one I was born with, but unusual in a way anyway. Jeanne is the name of a woman my father knew, and I suspect loved, before he met my mother. My middle name is specifically my mother's bow to Catholicism, and so I don't use it: Maria. My last name is a mystery: noone knows its national origin. It may be French, perhaps Polish. There is a Premiere Gomolka, after all. But after doing a family tree (many years before ROOTS), it doesn't seem that that is possible. Once I saw a show on TV: 2 black studs in a warehouse planning heist are interrupted by 3rd black stud who runs into room waving gun. The 2 studs swing around, yell, "Gomoll!" in unison and kill #3. That's the one time I've heard the name outside of relations.

I'd like some time perhaps to choose a different last name (my first is too much a part of me to drop), but wouldn't do the mother/daughter thing: my mother's name is Inez & that alone should be enough but then too, we haven't been able to make our relationship one I would want to celebrate in that way in any case. I think I'd have to find a name from within myself.

I like Feminary better than Anima Rising (I dislike the Jungian interpretation of male/female aspects) for a WAPA title: I'd like to have a vote in any case, to try to dispose of WAPA. Janet? I've got a neat cover illo idea if we do change it of Feminary...

All full of hooks this time aren't you? (Really: your writing is full of provocative ideas; I enjoy reading you). But this time I'm not biting. On jealousy I mean. I can't say I haven't felt jealousy through recent years but in my most important relationships, I have not. In fact dealing with the thing has mostly had to do with encountering jealousy in others I love.. It has a lot to do with Rick--which I suppose I will get into eventually...

But not now. I have to cut off comments now and continue in a postmailing or the next apa, I don't know. But the deadline ~~KXXXXX~~ has now come upon me. And so Denice, Candice, Alicia, Paul, Patrick, Jessica, Gary and Diane. I will have to delay saying anything in response now (or typing it: it's all written just not typed...).

Oh well...

It's now June 7. JANUS turned out to have 71 pages incredibly, and events those last few days of May just got to be too hectic for me to even get these abbreviated pages run off. (Not only was there the unavoidable JANUS deadlines, but there was also the tail end of a freelance project --with which, I am incredibly proud and happy and excited since I paid my rent with the proceeds from it. The project was the design, drawing on acrylic cells and painting of those cells for a nationwide-distributed slide series for police --training them to deal with retarded people.) Anyway I resigned myself to doing a postmailing, finished JANUS off, spent some time with Rick since he was leaving for California for the summer last week, and now, finally am sitting down with a decent typewriter (at the Women's Research Institute, my place of employment), and am finishing this thing: HOPEFULLY before I receive the Apa mailing in the mail...

OK, now where was I?

But before I begin, and now that I am a little less pressed for time, you will find comments enclosed in[]'s scattered through the rest of this. That's just me(now) commenting on what was written quite a while ago and now probably needs a bit of up-dating.

Denice            You mention my mention of the rape episode. I guess I'm hesitating about getting into that. Maybe I'm waiting for the right reason to bring it up and talk about it, or until I feel more comfortable here, or until I resolve a few things in my head. I don't know. And I'm not really giving you too much option as to response, maybe this should have been edited out...[Oh well, I didn't read ahead and catch it or it would have been, silly maunderings.]

--I hadn't thought about Anna/Molly (of THE GOLDEN NOTEBOOK) in comparison to myself/Cyn--but in a way (especially the incredible feeling of understanding every nuance of personal references in every word or motion the other communicated), it is a good comparative image. Thank you: if I read the Golden Notebook again, I'll have to think about the two characters in this way.

Candice Nice to "see" you again--

And Again, I agree the person who acted in such a way (to lunge and strike you after you said "no" and screamed) as well as the people who justified his behavior afterwards are/were stupid and inconsiderate. Otherwise--an admirable description of your aspirations as a woman.

I hope you enjoyed Lessing's BRIEFING.

Alicia I don't know about whether the statement that people who choose not to have children are, unfortunately, those best qualified to have them. I don't want children--not only for selfish reasons (though those are up front and rightly so), but also because I'd make a shitty mother. Lots of reasons for that believe me, but I won't go into it now. Being around as an 18-21 year old while my mother raised Danny (my youngest brother) though, erased any romantic notions I might have had and I have no doubts about my decision. [Persistent daydreams of murdering Danny whenever I was left to care for him for any extended length of time are certainly enough to convince me that I have made reasonable choices.] I think that most of the people who have thought it through and rejected the notion are probably completely right and actually would make lousy parents.

Also: the assumption that it's bad news (for the culture) if mostly poor people have children is racist/classist--based on a Social Darwinism point of view (i.e., that the poor are poor and uneducated because they aren't "fit"). Regardless of such fears though, I think eventually (and ideally) as a result of the availability of women's choice in the matter, people who are most capable and wanting to have children, will do so: and as many children as they want without being hissed at by O-population folks. And also without finding their vocation degraded because it is something all women supposedly desire as some sort of natural "instinct." Certainly I think I respect women who chose to be mothers now more than I did when I was merely running scared away from what my mother's life is.

I don't know how, and I wonder if it is even possible to raise a child to act in a manner free from and yet aware of institutionalized misogyny. I think you are courageous to have chosen to attempt this task. I question whether the cost (to you as a woman) is worth it. I don't envy but again admire you for having taken the chance that you will come through and grow with the experience of raising a child. Still, at the same time: these doubts for which I have no answers are primary reasons for deciding against experiencing childbirth myself. And I don't consider myself a coward for this, merely a realist, given conditions now.

I enjoyed meeting you at MiniCon--I hope I see you again and am able to talk longer then. Things were rather tense between myself and another Madstfian at the con and for that reason I couldn't make it to your party later Saturday night. On hindsight, maybe I should have anyway. Ah well.

Paul I enjoyed meeting you too. Ditto the above. At "The Hungry Eye," I felt as if I'd found a kindred spirit with respect to my feelings about very contemporary literature. Pynchon, Barth, Lessing and Piercy, etc. I do want to continue talking on such things.

Cy Chauvin sent me a wondrous packet of his Apa-50 zines and I was surprised to learn that you and Alicia & Cy are close friends and in fact, housemates. I wouldn't have guessed from our meeting. Cy seemed to sit back and ~~XX~~ getting acquainted from afar. Strange assumptions I was making, even besides that. Ah Well. Strange. I wish I could have spent an evening with all of you.

Marvelous: you write like you talk.

When you find the typewriter with a key for "relationship" let me know: I should have one too. Maybe a symbol could be invented?

...Seriously, I admire your awareness of your role in your marriage with Alicia. I only wish it didn't have to take so damned long to learn (for you to learn, for other men too): I'm selfish--I want to find someone at least semi-pre-enlightened so that I don't have to go through all of the rigorous process with them and then maybe not even make it through. Through a glass darkly, if any of that obtuseness made any sense at all.

Patrick            Somehow I get the feeling that we have a different sort of vocabulary or even set of concepts for looking at the world. Thus, it is difficult to comment.

However: I thought your criticism of the "equal time for men" argument for THE FEMALE MAN was witty and to the point.

And a comment on a comment: The best flip-flop of male-female roles, I think, was the midwife-to-obstetrician changeover. Midwives did dirty, mysterious (punishable by death as witchcraft, in some cases) work. Obstetricians do god-like, secretive, machine-aided, mysterious (and thus "above" mere female capability) work. The changeover came when the forceps was invented and the field became lucrative, and not just a human-supportive function. Afterwards, death rates of women giving birth increased awfully (doctors went from cadavers to laboring women and didn't believe in washing up, causing two centuries' plague of puereral fever, beginning in the 17 century. In the French province of Lombardy in one year, NO SINGLE WOMAN SURVIVED CHILDBIRTH...) Sorry, got off the subject. Isn't it funny, these flip-flops.

Jessica            [I debated first about whether or not I should write you personally and then about whether I should answer at all. It being far too late for this reply to speak to you at all probably with regard to what you were feeling at the time of your last words in this apa, I include this simply for you to read and know what my reaction was then...]

I'm being as honest as I can here, though not bleeding, no. You ask too much of me. You feel you cannot be honest, it is impossible to communicate, to make contact, and yet you're screaming out in pain (asking rescue--how?: you're right-- I don't know you and for all I know, you would pull me under with you if I swam out to you). You say don't say your name, don't respond, but pour out myself, cut myself, blend my pain with yours. You indite me for this whole thing not providing instant caring and complete understanding. Just add water, affix stamp and voila! Instant friends! no more loneliness! Come on. If you want this to work, try a while longer. If you don't, I'd rather not see your genzines, unfair trade for my work and energy in this apa.

I sympathize with your pain but you ask too much and your criticism is unjust. If we are getting to know fantasies, fictional constructs, not real people, then everyone we know and care for is a fictional construct in one way or the other. I don't

believe that. Making contact (every aspect of the process) is valuable.

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It's April 24th and still three biggies to go. [Ha!] I'll have to delay on those for a while. [Ha! Ha!] [She goes on to make inane comments about how late it is but how she still hopes to get it--the zine--out and done in time to take advantage of third class mailing. I'll spare you the fairy tales.]

Gary Hello you of the extensive record collection and unlimited stensils. Great artwork! (reprinted? They gave it to you for use in a limited press run APA and forgoe ego-boo???) Thanks, by the way, for the wonderful review in KARASS (for JANUS)...We've already received four or five subscription requests from people who ascribe their interest in your comments: It's done us more good than even the ALGOL mention in Susan Wood's column (Not that we don't appreciate and fawn over them all, you understand...) But really: thanks.

I'm glad you're here. Now playing: Alan Price's THE PRICE IS RIGHT, to be replaced momentarily by Margie Adam's new album.

I do feel guilty about my possible sexual interest in women being mere curiosity because I have known lesbians and have heard some of them say in clearly scornful tones that they didn't want to be the object of some cool straight woman's curiosity-fling. I can understand their fear. My friend Amy seems to have a variant Fag-Hag syndrome: that is, she keeps falling for straight women and pretty frequently they decide to extend their friendship into a sexual relationship for her, but only for a brief period until their curiosity is quenched. My interest in women is completely and at most comes from a sadness that I cannot extend present close friendships into more multi-leveled ones, i.e., including sex. I couldn't make love to a strange woman merely for sex: I am not interested, not even curious there. Therefore I would definitely be risking another woman's pain and risking a friendship.

As long as initiatives are not sexually typed (i.e., man aggressor, woman passive) I see no reason to avoid "seductions." Spice, excitement--someone happens to become interested and considering the other first and begins the process of gentle convincing. A semantics difference here, I think,--I've dropped the connotation of rape from that word seduction...

I don't know why Rick decided he had to choose damn it (the curse is not directed towards you. She, the other woman, Kris, certainly supports the decision I know, but I don't know how much her desire for a monogamous arrangement weighed for my exclusion in Rick's mind. I am still flinching that he could have said so many things and so easily taken them back when there was someone else: as if he had only one set of words, and could not use them in two places at one time. I don't understand how love for one can invalidate seemingly honest love for another. We're not the same people after all. But I can't say anymore from this direction except further blithers of confusion. Perhaps that's why I'm avoiding talking about it.

"Safe" to me is a term I used at one time in a derogatory sense: I knew that I was protecting myself from having to challenge my emotional abilities, sexual worries, etc... I could both complain about "frustrated horniness"--(see previous comment to Seth)--and not have to worry about breaking down interior walls, which were still in pretty good repair (despite Cyn's work). "Safe" men then, were gay

men and married men (lots of them too; I always broke things off if they progressed regardless of their supposed monogamous commitment).

I'm sorry--I still don't want to dive into a jealousy discussion. See above for beginnings of my confusion and hurt on the subject. More later--and yes, ask, I do want to talk about it: Maybe I just need comments/questions to build on, give me a different point of view, etc. I think the same reason/problem stands with regard to my reticence on the rape episode.

I meant that--for me (yes, only me)--I wanted a special long term emotional-sexual commitment primarily with one person. At the moment I would like it to be one person, though I think too that will generally hold, though I do not and have never excluded more casual affairs at the same time. Also, by long-term, I mean indefinite, not life-long--thus I mean "at-a-time" not "one-for-always." Ok now, clear?

Later for Journal Lit: maybe next apa. I'll keep it in mind.

You understand about T-shirts now? You should have received a copy of OBSESSIONS #1 by now.

dinner

Suncon--I think the pro-women sf writers/is a wonderful idea. Perhaps we can have it at a less expensive place, nice as a fine gormet dinner would be.. Or, yes, I should think one could graciously invite them to be honored at a dinner at which they bought their own meals: such should be understandable considering the number being honored (and then we wouldn't have to decide whose standing made them eligible for such an honor). But really, the whole thing might be more accessible to both fans and pros at a less extravegant price, at a different place. Possible? [I should think this is getting more possible considering the fact that this event will take place outside of the sponsorship of the WorldCon Committee... I hope the apa members can pull it off, that we can pull it off without them. I should think actually that we might have an easier time making the occassion what we want without them.]

I do hope and 70% expect that I will make it to SunCon and the panel. Thanks again for asking me, Gary.

Diane I share your lust for Gene Wilder (Oh why didn't I run accross him while I lived in Milwaukee?! He comes from there, you know) and hysteria for Richard Pryor. I agree: the critics were crazy when they panned SILVER STREAK. Ah yes, that smile... (I fell for him in WILLY WONKA.)

Not much comment on the semantics argument--most of my ideas in this area have to do with elimination of male generics not creation of new neuters. I think it's of primary importance to work on language changes that have a chance to really become a part of general language. It seems that most problems can be avoided and when the object is known as to sex, of course, he, she, is OK with me... That's not the problem to me, it's the general cases.

I know this isn't at all generic. Your argument didn't strike home. I don't think it hits squarely at the central problem of language as reflections and cause of sexism in society, that can be changed and thus have an effect on culprit.

Victoria Do you refuse to call yourself a woman because "human" is a larger encompassing term? Do I drop the words car, plane, train from my vocabulary because "vehical" is more inclusive? You are a feminist, and if you decide so, you are also a "humanist" --and under you definition "fem-

inist" is a subset of the latter. You say you agree with feminist philosophy--now--then why the phobia about the lable? You're the one that says lables don't limit or define, that it's what you think of as you say the word. I'm confused. (But glad for the turnabouts and changes in your life--especially getting rid of Stelazine--for you.)

Why the pill if you aren't sexually active? You seem to be in a reasonably good position judging from your past experience in Pharmacy to understand the risks. Why expose yourself needlessly??

I think the apa's great too...just getting a bit leary about hearing that it's the "in"apa to join in fandom now...

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Ok that's it. I did finish before the next apa arrived (though it may be on my doorstep at home now, at least I can read it with a clear conscience). As I said earlier, I do plan to send you all copies of this issue of JANUS, though I don't think I'll be able to continue to indefinitely--you might send a comment or contribution to keep them coming. I would really appreciate comments on the review of S.M. Charnas' THE MOTHERLINES from all of you. In any case, I hope you enjoy it.

To your <sup>right</sup> ~~is~~ is the drawing of weird circumstances I mentioned earlier on in this zine. I still like it. The woman is noone I know, just from my imagination as are most of the drawings that (sometimes) appear in this zine.

See you in August.

Jeanne

