

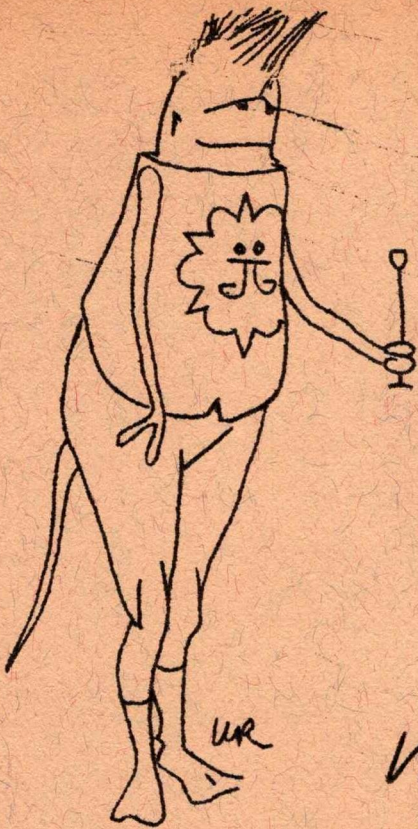
the  
rambling  
fap 40

fapa 118  
february 1967

gregg  
calkins







MC'S

116th and 117th mailings

Once again I find myself in an all-too-familiar position, that of rushing something onto stencil the week before deadline. I promised myself that this would never happen again, but here I am and there go my plans for a larger, improved Rambling Fap this time. No article or reprint section, just time for the above...

**BETE NOIRE** (Boggs) Your statement about "years ago, after giving away or losing all my books from childhood" brought back to mind an old puzzle of mine... I can't for the life of me figure out what has happened to all of my old books throughout the years. Particularly those from childhood and my early sf days. Oh, I have sold some of them, particularly in the last few years, but a vast majority of these have been recent acquisitions made in the last ten years or so, and I have a pretty good memory for these and the various books I have given away from time to time. Still, what became of all of these others I can still remember purchasing and have no memory of selling, giving away, or losing? I'm positive I haven't lost any--I'd certainly remember that!

**HORIZONS** (Warner) Ah--I never really expected to see another one, but here you are...one of a small (apparently) group including myself who feel, as you say, that "...Asimov is fearsomely overrated as a writer." Not to say that I haven't enjoyed some of his stories, particularly some novels, but I never have been able to place him up near the top as so many other readers seem to do. ## I haven't heard about it for some time, Harry--how is the FanHistory coming? ## Aha, "The Worst of Martin" is down to less than half a page this time. Don't tell me you are finding it slightly less than worth the effort?

**BUCKET OF PLAID** (Trimbles) Congratulations! I only wish I had the same courage of my convictions that you two have about the Southern California area. Like you, I am pretty damned sure this is not the place to bring up three boys, but unlike you I haven't been able to bring myself to do much about it. The trouble is chiefly that I'd almost have to get out of the oil business to go and live anywhere I'd really like to live, which is within the Intermountain states, and I'm not quite ready to do that yet. Not quite--but getting closer. I think more and more often about teaching...



## The Rambling Fap II

SERCON'S BANE (Busby) I, personally, would rather do without a radio than have only an AM set. In fact, I insist on it. For that reason I had to wait an extra six months or so in order to afford our clock radio, a thing I dearly love, until I could afford an FM model. Waking up in the morning is bad enough. The thought of waking up every day to the sort of crap they serve up on AM is enough to ruin me for life. ## Beadarned, Wally Weber is back in Seattle! And you are thinking of bidding on a Worldcon! Will wonders never cease? ## Oh, yes, I just remembered a hook for another comment. Since you are also one of that valiant group known as Weight Watchers I know I won't bore you with my tale, no matter what I do to the rest of the readership. Anyhow, I am on another diet again. I go on one every other year to relose the umpteen pounds I have regained in between every time. Man, I betcha I have lost over 500 pounds in my life--not all at once, of course, but off and on. This time I sneaked up over 230 again into the 235 range (remember in Seattle when I got down around 190?) and decided that, once again, it was time to do something about it. THIS time, though, I swear, vow, pledge and all that that I WILL NOT GAIN IT BACK NOSIR! I found another chubby type at work and we put it in the form of a wager, just to make it interesting and incidentally just about the only sure-fire way I've ever found to stick to a diet. We weigh every Monday morning on the doctor's scale in the company nurse's office--that way we both weigh on the same scale, it's an accurate one, and the Monday morning bit really is a strong reason to keep on the straight and narrow, especially narrow, over the long weekends. The biggest loser each week collects \$1 from the least loser, who is then the loser. We've been going three weeks. I had managed to come down a little from my Christmas high before the contest began and I started officially at 228. And so far we have each one of us won once with one tie so it is a dead heat right now. I hit 212 last time, for 16 lbs off in three weeks, which isn't bad. My goal? You'll laugh, but my doctor say enough of this kidding around with my blood pressure and I should hit around 182 under the same weighing circumstances, so I have 30 more pounds to go. Urgh! I guess I'll do it, though. Should be fun. My neck size is down from a 17 to a 16 so far, and I can take my trousers off without undoing them once I unbuckle my belt... ## I have resumed walking to and from work, by the way, after a lapse of some time due to inclement weather and a cold or two. A little over three miles a day, every day except Monday, on which I bowl and I figure that's enough. Do you still Green Lake it?

CANNONBALL (Hoffman) SNICKERSNEE (Silverberg) "But then I am...growing crotchity and grumpy in my old age (and) I have come to intensely dislike large crowds in general and loud crowd noises in particular." LeeH. "I find as I get older that I get increasingly crusty about such things...I see myself as surrounded by hordes of marching morons determined to make as much noise as possible..." Agberg. I guess it's true what they say about great minds and a single thought. Particularly since I couldn't agree more with the sentiments expressed. ## One of the more astonishing attributes a Democrat possesses is, to me, the fact that he can on the one hand complain lengthily about Vietnam and still at the same time imply that, somehow, the Republicans must be responsible. "On the hopeful assumption that Armageddon will be averted for the sake of a Democratic victory in the 1968 Presidential election" indeed, for God's sake. I suppose our present sorry position in world affairs is still due to "that old fool Eisenhower." Remarkable mental agility.

DAMBALLA (Hansen) Gadzooks, sir, you are using my favorite expression, to wit, gadzooks! I don't know where I acquired the habit of using it, but I am afraid that I exclaim it quite often aloud, if seldom in print. Are we the only two, or do you suppose there are more of us somewhere? Since I am revealing my innermost secrets, I might as well also add that I often say "gadzooks, menooks" but if I haven't any idea how or where I picked up the former I most certainly don't the latter either, only doubly so. I'm not even sure what I mean by it...



### The Rambling Fap III

LIGHTHOUSE Terry, this a damned attractive publication, almost too nice looking  
(Carr) to be called a fanzine. Beautiful reproduction of some of the Atom  
illos. ## I wish this weren't being typed the weekend before dead-  
line...and late on a Sunday afternoon at that...because I'd like to spend some time  
on Philip K. Dick. I'm not entirely certain it would be worth it, though. ## Not  
being a house-owner (at least I don't imagine you are) you may not be interested in  
this statistic, but the reason I am so late getting to the typewriter with this last  
page or two today is because my neighbor came over this morning and asked me if I'd  
go half with him on the rental of a roto-tiller and we would each help the other  
renovate our respective lawns. I tried to beg out, as well as could be managed, at  
first graciously and next frantically, but it was no use. You haven't lived until  
you've roto-tilled your lawn...and it might be worth it.

BOBOLINGS Of course we all have different tastes, Bob, but for my part I could  
(Pavlat) not recommend any two states higher as fine places in which to live  
than I do Utah and Arizona. I thoroughly enjoyed my years in Salt  
Lake City (you visited us there, as I remember) as well as the ones in southern Utah  
down near Bryce...and from visits I can also say the area around Flagstaff is pretty  
wonderful, too. Of course, I like what I call four seasons country and you may not.  
I also like a relatively dry climate...snow in the winter and rains in the spring  
with thundershowers in the summer, but essentially a dry climate. You can have the  
Pacific Northwest for all of me...much too wet. Beautiful, though, I'll grant that.  
I hurry to add that it can get too dry...Nevada and parts of the Southwest are like  
that. And I confess I haven't seen much of Colorado, but I intend to remedy that  
this summer when we take our vacation camping throughout western Colorado. ## I  
would like to take issue with one point--your statement that Utah is too church  
dominated. It isn't, really, or at least it was never bothersome to me, and the  
effect of the church in the larger cities, Salt Lake in particular, is rapidly being  
diluted by the influx of new peoples with different religions. I'd go back to SLC  
in an instant...and my beliefs and habits are remarkably different from those of the  
LDS church.

THE LAREAN Thanks for the call the other night, Ron...certainly surprised me to  
(Ellik) hear from a Science Fiction Fan after all these years of submergence  
in FAPA. Sorry I couldn't take you up on the poker game, too, be-  
cause the one I had planned for the next night fell through after all. But we will  
still have to get ours up...you and I and Burbee, Perdue, Tolliver, Don Fitch and  
Dean Grennell should prove interesting. Do they all play poker? If not, that should  
make it even more interesting. Tolliver does, I know. He still has some of my \$\$...

SCROTE The fan with my face...or at least my place. For a long time I was  
(Tapscott) Salt Lake's only fanzine fan and now I am not. And you are. Living  
here in the great unwashed armpit of the world, as I do, I envy you.  
You lucky so-and-so. I believe you even live close to where I did...Crandall Ave.  
Hmmm...on the East Bench, between say 13th South and 17th South?

EINX Gadzooks, it is almost a crime to read this wonderful fancine all  
(Grennell) about how wonderful southern California is and particularly Covina  
and here I have just referred to the area as the great unwashed armpit  
of the world. I guess it all goes to show. It does tell me one thing--I know where  
I wouldn't like to be and that's Wisconsin. Or Aylmer East. Not with you guys all  
thinking SC is so great. The weather, I admit, can be very pleasant...today it was  
85 for my yard work on the 5th of February. But it can't begin to compensate for the  
smog. Or the people. Or the smog. Or the traffic. Or the smog. I think I hate  
the smog worst of all. Have you ever spent a summer in the smog and gone on vacation  
to Utah or Arizona and discovered those wide, starry skies all over again? Those  
billions of unbelievable stars? Or, harder yet, returned? It's almost reason enough  
to give up taking vacations.