

SYNAPSE

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DENDRITES

Roy Tackett met his first wife, Chrystal (who died years ago), before he helped create the sf community in Albuquerque; but he and Eleen met in it, and a notable number of other fen found their domestic partners in our small scientown.

There are many pairings in fandom. Consider the succession of exspouses marrying other fen, one of which Terry Carr (?) called a daisy-chain extending from coast to coast. I asked Dick Wilson why, and he said it was because other fen are about the only persons fen know.

After you leave school, the opportunities to meet possible mates shrink. Some people find their social ties at work. (This is one reason that sexual harassment on the job is such a knotty problem.)

A poignant thing about the play Marty was that men and women seeking dates went to a public dance hall, knowing they would be screened according to appearance. In a hobby group, people have a chance to learn less superficial qualities of others. So one of our fen married a member who has a balding head, a cleft palate, a brilliant scientific mind, and a good heart.

The young woman who took over the helm of Alpha Centura from Eleen had gotten pregnant just before her fiance knocked his brains out in a motorcycle accident. He's still alive, but she wouldn't marry him under the circumstances. The three-year-old product now runs around Alpha meetings with other small fry, and the mother gives as a reason for keeping Alpha alive (Roy and I think it might as well be disbanded, it has dwindled so) that this is the one club where parents can feel free to bring small children. Lately, one of our bachelor members seems to have adopted her and her daughter.

It's not only such connections that fen find in the local clubs. Jodie Stinebaugh probably isn't looking for a man. When I asked why she returned to AqSFS and took the heavy duties of execsec, she answered that this was her only social outlet. When people want to throw a party at Halloween, birthday, or New Years, they issue invitations at our meetings.

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EPIMETHEUS

Mailing 244

FANTASY AMATEUR

"They'll turn positively green with envy". Is there such a thing as negative green?

I see no reason to disqualify a fanzine as credentials merely because it's in Swedish. Unless it was distributed outside FAPA more than three months before.

FOR FAPA (Lindsay)

Why did you move to the deep north? From your mention of Mackay, I guess that Airlie Beach is south of the Tropic. Apparently Australia has removalists, who sound like a cult. Here we have movers (and they do some shaking too). I suppose the thousand old magazines still in your house were sf, not the Saturday Evening Post or MacLeans. But when you speak of extracting bits from them, I hope you mean bits to publish, and that you don't contemplate destructive surgery. I didn't see the connection between Roneotype and the Readers Digest. Yes, those rubbery disks to go between a tight bottleneck or jar lid and the hand wonderfully strengthen the grip. "8 @ 20 kg boxes" is another wild use of the @ sign. Do you mean eight 20-kilogram boxes?

CANDIRU STORIES (Foyster)

You understating Brits. Three "slightly"s in the first three paragraphs.

It's hard not to translate "politeknik" as polite knik. I agree on reserving "stadia" for the Roman measurement. How much is or are a ringgit? A traffic light that stays the same for as much as a minute annoys me. "Edinburgh, going via Windermere. They had gone to Paris via Eurostar, which had impressed them." Apparently this is "via" in two different senses. "her offside Miss Yap". Does that mean counterpart? "no opera devoted to Che Guevara can be wholly bad." Ah ha. You reveal your true color, you British Marxist.

ARTIFACT TO Z (Mintz)

"There are several hundred cubic centimeters of 'dead air' in the upper throat, nose and sinuses." that seems a lot.

KING BISCUIT TIME (Lichtman)

Ben sounds like a good son.

"I tend to skip extensive computer talk, reviews of books and movies I'm unlikely to experience, and most discussion of sports." I tend to read computer talk with little comprehension, skip discussion of sports, and skip some conreports and some other travelogs. Bcon's pro goh this year, Robert Sawyer, expressed fear that fen as a species might die out. I bought a copy of the paperback Pornography & the Law from John Boardman. Not very

interesting. ' ' I suppose "the two obvious books" of HG Wells are the Time Machine and the War of the Worlds. ' ' Maybe it's too much trouble to keep a separate bank account for FAPA funds. But remember Ted White's embezzlement. ' ' "appropo-ness" is an interesting coinage. ' ' My hardbound GPO Style Manual is dated 1959. ' ' "acid-free Twiltone" sounds like a selfcontradiction. Isn't Twiltone made from woodpulp? ' ' Was your first "fanzine" published for that astronomy club? ' ' I've tried tofu. ' ' Are your backyard blackberries wild? The wild ones in Seattle and environs were hardly worth picking.

HORIZONS

One hums into a kazoo. It is too open to blow. ' ' Walter Gropius sounds like a name young fen might have given to Breen. ' ' Popcorn or other refreshments were more likely to be indulged in after the show. ' ' By the 1939 Worlds Fair the robot image seemed well established. ' ' I didn't think SaM's appearance changed much between youth and age. ' ' I was under total anesthesia once, to have broken arms reset. Afterward, i could remember the sickly-sweet smell of the chloroform (?) just before i passed out. ' ' Perdue in a late year was scarcely able to carry a typewriter, or maybe it was a duper, from my garage to a table. ' ' I take it "dubbing" means copying.

su:percalifra:gilistic:xpialido-cious, a. Also supercalifragilistic; formerly also other varr. [Fanciful: cf. *SUPER a. 3.] A nonsense-word used esp. by children, now chiefly expressing excited approbation: fantastic, fabulous.

Made popular by the Walt Disney film 'Mary Poppins' in 1964. The song containing the word was the subject of a copyright infringement suit brought in 1965 against the makers of the film by Life Music Co. and two song-writers: cf. quots. 1949, 1951. In view of earlier oral uses of the word sworn to in affidavits and dissimilarity between the songs the judge ruled against the plaintiffs.

1949 PARKER & YOUNG (*unpublished song-title*) Super-calafajalistickeespialadojus. 1951 — (*song-title*) Super-calafajalistickeespialadojus; or, The super song. 1964 R. M. & R. B. SHERMAN (*song-title*) Supercalifragilistic-expialidocious! 1967 *Decisions U.S. Courts involving Copyright 1965-66* 488 The complaint alleges copyright infringement of plaintiff's song 'Supercalafajalistickeespialadojus' by defendants' song 'Supercalifragilisticxpialidocious'. (All variants of this tongue twister will hereinafter be referred to collectively as 'the word'.) 1971 *Daily Tel.* 6 Nov 13/5 If you can stand more than a day of Supercalifragilisticxpialidocious entertainment you can settle in at the concrete Contemporary Resort Hotel. 1972 *Atlanta Constitution* 9 Apr. 20A/1 Disney World, the new supercalifragilisticxpialidocious tourist attraction created by the folks who brought you Mickey Mouse, is packing them into Orlando. 1980 *Amer. Speech* LV. 266 Whatever the ancestry of *supercalifragilisticxpialidocious*, it entered the general public consciousness as a result of the wonderful world of Disney. 1982 *N.Y. Post* 29 July 64/3 His eyes are willing unspoken words to life as though they were part of one of those supercalifragilistic electronic scoreboards.

WHAT THE DORMOUSE SAID (Ortlieb)

I don't remember soma being mentioned outside Brave New World. ' ' If the Exchange Club or Kiwanis went underground, i suppose it could be called a "secret service organisation".

Is Janet Asimov related to Isaac? ' ' I don't see the scientist's daughter as "the character who is only really there so that the scientist can tell her things that the author wants the reader to know." More often, she was someone to get into peril and be rescued by the hero. The hero was likely to be the straight man for scientific explanations. ' ' I missed the original publication of Alicia in Blunderland, and know it only through a reprint illustrated by Art Widner. ' ' "Why can't you authors stick to you're own characters?" I trust this is your mistake, not Schuyler Miller's. ' ' Did Wells write about a mermaid? ' ' "the character

called Rap" was no doubt Raymond A Palmer (ptui). The Darrow is Jack Darrow, Clifford Kornoelje. '' "the two young iconoclasts John W. Campbell and E.E. Smith." I don't believe Smith was young after the world began. '' "hubri" would be the plural of "hubris" only if the latter terminated in -us. '' "The ending is the standard, 'It was just a dream' Alice ending, with a bow to post-apocalyptic science fiction." If you are using "post-apocalyptic" in the current mistaken meaning of after-atomigeddon, i don't see the application to a story written in the early 1930s.

MUTTERINGS FROM THE TEAPOT (Ortlieb)

"a mild approbation for any unnecessary niggling bureaucracy." Do you mean opprobrium? '' "in cricket, the ball usually has to bounce on the wicket before reaching the batsman." Geez; i didn't know that. It sounds hard to do. '' My new vcr is no slouch at computing day:date. It refuses to accept an erroneous pairing. '' I can understand you British using "as" for 'because', since it's shorter. 'for' and 'since' are other monosyllabic alternatives. But i can't understand your all's penchant for "given that" in the same role. '' The ancestors, as far back as i know them, and descendants in my male line were "late starters", begotten and begetting after thirty. '' I read your comments on recent popular music because they were easy typographically; i wouldn't have read them otherwise. '' Does Australia have a law for accommodating the handicapped?

DEROGATORY REFERENCE (Hlavaty)

"a fundamentalist with a large penis." A fundamentalist believes the Bible is literally true. Fundamentalists are not particularly virtuous. '' "his usually differently intelligent stuff about politics". Do you imply that Vonnegut is stupid about politics?

SANSEVIERIA (Speirs)

When you say small home-use presses came into the price range of the average person in the late 1800s, i think you leave out of the average a large number of working-class people. '' Fred Pohl's autobiography gives a good example of how labor was cheaper than alternatives before WW2.

BENS BEAT (Indick)

Nice to have those illos from With the Night Mail. They remind me of a full-page picture of future war in a cousine's set of children's books, probably published before 1903. People almost couldn't imagine aeronavigation without balloons, so lines of soldiers pendant from balloons were pictured discharging their rifles at each other. "Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rain'd a ghastly dew From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue".

Chicago is so too called the windy city from its winds. ' ' Aberdeen is in South Dakota. I rode a one-passenger-car milk train into Aberdeen from North Dakota one day in 1945, and it stopped for everyone to get out and have lunch at local eateries. ' ' I'm glad to know your underlining policy on books. But you left Bob Sabella, among all the FAPAns, alone ununderlined.

I don't remember that the people in Shangri-La had a particularly "amicable relationship to the earth". ' ' How could there be a dark side on a Venus that travels without revolving on its axis? The sides would alternate at least once a year. ' ' You say With the Night Mail came out in book form in 1900. Bleiler says 1909. ' ' The best play on that word was someone's, probably Geis's, title-page with a representation of Jules Verne's tombstone at Amiens, portraying his immorality. It had only one finger out. ' ' How could there be a Jewish hero in a "post-apocalyptic novel"? The apocalypse to St John was for Christians. ' ' I too was disappointed with the climax of Cold Mountain. ' ' The logo for PBS's Mystery is excellent.

"and I highly recommend it." Well, let it be written that on the facing page you recommended a book and didn't recommend it highly. And again on page 21. ' ' It would seem that in the 19th century getting your story produced on stage was the way to make a hatful of money. Even Tennyson tried it. ' ' Speaking of lengthy, complex sentences: "The novel has even more discursive rambling and lengthy, complex sentences than usual, in addition to non-plot advancing chapters devoted to satirizing Bureaucracy (which Dickens labels the Department of Circumlocution, and not until the last such does the Barnacle family, which populates the Department, frankly admit it accomplishes nothing but its own continuance)." ' ' Not until the nextolast line, i think, did you tell us you were discussing a film.

"he phumphers helplessly." A word new to me. ' ' On facing pages you speak of a "young girl" and of a "young woman". Is there a difference, in your lexicon? ' ' "It was 90 intermissionless minutes and I could have used another ninety." Guess what my comment on this was going to be, then see a comment to Graeme. ' ' I attended some flamenco dancing at a bistro on Canyon road. It quickly became monotonous. ' ' Is it true that Mrs Hoover tried to take the White House silver?

You were "serviced by beautiful starlets" at the Hollywood Canteen? Puts me in mind of a joke, i think in the Grapes of Wrath, with the punchline "So now, when anybody talks about 'service', all I wanta know is, Who's gettin' screwed?" ' ' Does one shout "Brava!" to a female performer? ' ' I see you and quite a few FAPAns are now leaving the meaningless "enough" off "curiously" (Green), "oddly" (Feller)(but Chamberlain inserted it twice, omitting it the third time), etc.

SNICKERSNEE (Silverberg)

The staple is half off the corner of this copy. I fear for the integrity of my files, which include all staples.

I'm behind the curve on typers and computers because obsolescent equipment is cheap; but recently i bought a new vcr at

about \$100, cheaper and better than any before. Probably when HDTV comes along, lots of standard television equipment will become a drug on the market. ' ' When your machine lost its printer, i suppose you could have saved the story in it by copying by hand off the monitor. ' ' What's a flame war? ' ' What i hear about the internet reminds me of a Life article shortly after WW2, How We Will Think, or some such title. It imagined a man doing an article on the development of ancient weapons, calling up data from a film bank. ' ' Was that convention in the Czech republic you attended on line a stefcon? It's because the internet is a time-swallower that i've stayed away from it. The unread mail keeps piling up on my chest. Cedar chest, that is.

GALACTO CELTIC NEWSFLASH (Miklis)

I know that the beacon burns From Clee to heaven, and From north and south the sign returns. Is there an ancient Celtic custom of bonfires being lighted in response to fires? ' ' "the Zen-garden with biotop" and "1,200 qm" defeat my guessing. If Moni is your best wife, who are the others?

SOME COMMENTS ON MATTERS RAISED IN FAPA (Stone)

It would ease reading if you spaced twice after full stops. SaM also exposed some later chicanery by Blish, praising himself in a pseudonymous column, probably the Issue at Hand. ' ' What's "the traditional path to codormitation"? ' ' Unless they posited that there was no lightning, it shouldn't have been too hard for the scientist who discovered electricity to give an official some idea of what he's talking about. ' ' "ultimate power rests with the technicians". "ultimate" implies a mental model of power-centers culminating in the technicians. I doubt such a model would correspond to reality. Similar is the question of where ultimate power lies in a modern state: In the army, in the media, in the unions, in the electorate,. Any one of these may have critical power, depending on the posture of things. ' ' My favorite book on ancient Egypt is Waltari's the Egyptian.

If the British do not want immigrants, why do immigrants keep arriving? ' ' I don't remember Redd's description of his nuptials. I've twice wondered to Metcalf whether he married Gretchen, and Norm hasn't been able to tell me.

I see comments purporting to be on the 236th, 236th, 239th, and 240th mailings.

Swisher kept a card index of letters to the early prozines. ' ' Shirley Temple was a remarkably good actress for one so young. ' ' I thought of eye, ear, toe, ass, and hip right away. Later (some of these are parts of compounds), cap, jaw, pit, lid, lip, and gum. It is appropriate that words of such frequent use should be expressed by two or three sounds. ' ' Is "queries" for "questions" (expresses doubt about) only a British usage? ' ' Were there literal demons in Fear? I thought the whole thing was in the protagonist's fevered mind. Incidentally, when the Hubbard archives called recently seeking Hubbard cover originals, i mentioned having Cartier's cat-on-the-cliff interior from Fear,

and the man asked whether i'd like to get rid of it. No. "Reader reaction to Final Blackout was that it was outstanding fiction. I suppose antiwar people liked it most. " Woolworth has nearly disappeared from this country. " "Logically the more complex the system, the worse the failure." This may follow from experience, but not from logic. " "Modern glued-books". Paperbacks are generally glued, but aren't hardbacks sewn? " That is a good question. Perhaps the origination of language in grunts for specific purposes with little effort at systematization led to complicated grammar, and when they developed into a fullblown language the grammar was too hard for common folk to master, so they simplified. The Story of English attributes some of the simplification of English to marriage across Danelaw-Wessex-etc lines, but that explanation doesn't satisfy me.

ALPHABET SOUP (Stevens)

Usually when you know too much, the remedy is liquidation rather than rehiring.

Your discussion of the Hugo awards was so amusingly written that i gave up picking Highlights from it. Nice to have these synopses, albeit tongue in cheek, of stories i should have read but haven't. " "the forward to 'Forever Peace,'" should be foreword. " "If you had the ideas for all twentieth century devices in the sixteenth century, it would take decades to do the tooling and training necessary to implement them." That's a telling point against the Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, though he was only establishing nineteenth-century technology, and as a factory foreman he had a better excuse than most for understanding machinery. " Using dance as communication was anticipated by a Milt Gross comic circa 1930--"Henswers he denced"--the first installment of which ended with the memorable lines: "So into de sout sizz it came transformations from a ceewilized hinfloence, wot'll be continued naxt wick de sturry."

"things Man Is Not Meant to Know" is a stock idea and phrase. I wonder whether its origin is within the memory of anyone living. " "doesn't bother me tooooo much." I suppose the prolongation indicates that you really mean too much here (as i did in writing "it shouldn't have been too hard for the scientist who discovered electricity" supra), and it's not a mindless automatic addition to the negation. Similarly, some of our members this time have put "THAT" in all caps, or italics (Lerner), when they actually mean that much. " c is commonly used as a substitute for the cent mark. " This Kyle book, printed in Europe, is dated 1976. "



I'm sure TAFF could have taken legal action against an embezzler, whether or not it has a given legal status. ' I'm sorry to have invalidated you as soon as you said it, by not having Synapse last in the 244th mailing. It'll be nearly first in the 245th, and this issue is going to miss last place in that same mailing. ' The official counterculture of the moment may be libertarianism. It was pitched to a Humanist meeting i dropped in on at the law school. ' I believe the veteran without hands appeared briefly in one more movie, as a soda jerk. ' I thought Cosby's Noah bit was very good. ' Mugwump didn't come into political use until after the Civil War, and didn't apply to slavery. ' Being sub-junctive doesn't always call for "were"; only if the hypothesis is contrary to fact. Many writers incorrectly substitute it for 'was' after every 'if'. But consider: 'He was underprivileged.' 'What if he was?' ' Kyle was also given a time limit on the First Fandom presentation at Intersection.

SMORGASBORD (Engholm)

In Webster II dingbat was an all-purpose word like thingamajig. In Webster III it became a typographical ornament something like a bullet. You seem to have extended its meaning. And here's another word: >----->

SCIENCE FICTION JOURNALEN (Engholm)

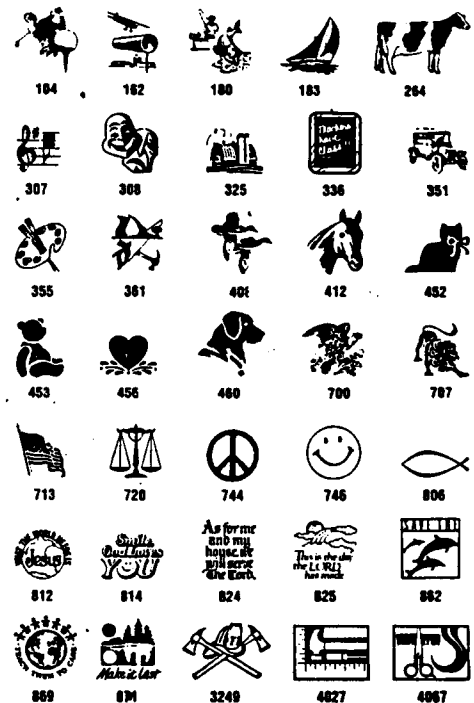
I would rather believe Germany had the first stefnumag than that Russia did. ' There are some awful hyphenations here. The awfulest is "someo-ne".

MUTTERINGS FROM THE TEAPOT (bis)

You actually used logarithm tables back in the old days? ' Riming "army" with "hippopotami" is more farfetched, to an American, than identifying "tortoise" with "taught us". And that's pretty far. ' The Corrected World Map was on display in the Australian pavilion at the Vancouver worldfair. ' Don't tell me the author of Onward Christian Soldiers wrote those filthy limericks. ' Five times, twice on page 3b, you forgot to close your parentheses. ' I only remember the bloke in 1984 saying beer was better in the old days. Since a pint and half a liter are almost the same, the quasiquoted remark makes less sense than "One's just right, two's too many, and three's not enough."

WOODCUTS

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HELENS FANTASIA (Wesson)

You should have put in a first page telling plainly what kind of machine you typed this on, and why the hell it made you make such a mess.

I believe Mark Sullivan's Our Times says those Brownies were popular around the turn of the century. They carried over into school readers of the 1920s to some extent.

It was hard to get the drift of what Ted Koppel or you were saying. But i take it you're on the side of the angels, against overpopulation.

What is the advantage of voice messaging over an answering machine? ' ' We have found evidence that Europeans settled in Maine well before 1620. ' ' Tennyson used a phrase, "the dragon of the great Pendragonship", which i suppose implies that Uther was a chief of chiefs. But it's odd to see a Welsh-Latin-Saxon compound, pendragonship.

"the many inventions this great scientist discovered." Hey, you invent inventions, you discover discoveries. Franklin discovered (demonstrated) that lightning is electricity, and he invented bifocals.

EMTROPY BLUES (Graeme)

"as I no longer read SF, I felt myself to be a bit of a fraud in belonging to the club." Maybe that "read" is past tense, but it's regrettably ambiguous in written English. ' ' "And evidently so did my readers in that I eventually acquired a bit of a reputation for humorous writing." Another substitute, "in that", for 'because'. ' ' "Foom" i haven't seen before. Don't confuse it with Froomb, the worst-sf book which at Bcon auctions is annually passed to a new commentator. ' ' "So far I've produced 5 items, and hope to add another five by the end of the year." Was there any reason for the switch from figure 5 to word five? ' ' Is CanFAPA a bundle of contributions like FAPA, or a fanzine? ' ' "charter member" harks back to the time when a corporate body could be created only by a special charter from the sovereign. Your use of the phrase is dubious. ' ' "Four Horsemen of the Apalocs" is too good to throw away. Hey, maybe you could do something with post-apalocypsic. Nah, the movement of the accent spoils it. ' ' Lots of people are echoing Saddam Hussein these days. I question whether a complete guide to Canadian fmz could properly be called "certainly the mother of all Daugherty projects". ' ' I hope it isn't monitoring your mentally-ill mother that has kept you from having a girl friend. One never owes it to the previous generation to sacrifice getting a life of his own. ' ' Give us some examples of Viking poetry that is great stuff. ' ' I too just like to learn about things that interest me. ' ' I didn't know as many as 36 Mesoamerican pyramids survived. ' ' Okay, we'll let you stay. Fetters and warder for the Graeme.

DETOURS (Chauvenet)

It was pea-green. You transposed "honey" and "money". What did Lear mean by "plenty of money Wrapped up in a five-pound note"? Were coins wrapped in the L5 bill?

I wasn't quoting from my memory. It was Norm Stanley quoting from his. I doubt you found Weinbaum's poem in the Best of Williamson. ' ' The first time i saw the little man who wasn't there, Dick Wilson was quoting it.

"fags" isn't only English slang. An American WW1 song says "The Y men gave us fags and socks, parley voo, They gave us chocolates by the box, parley voo." ' ' Joanna sounds precious and precocious.

I don't believe the story of the Grand Vizier's 117,000 volumes on 400 camels.

Yuri uses an exclamation point after his salutation, as the Germans do. I wonder whether his script is developed from German. It was nice of him to sign off with "Clear Ether".

I thought the Estonian language was closer than the Latvian to Finnish. ' ' Now that i have Indick straightened out on Metcalf, i'll work on you and "Sadilla". Sabella.

Beyond Silence is far from aggressive Deaf culturism.

PENSTOCK (Forman)

Penstock has nothing to do with ballpoint pens.

I question your statement that Boulder dam "exists primarily as a flood control structure". Water storage, perhaps. And i doubt the statement that the Imperial valley and Arizona's Yuma valley provide America with 52 percent of its produce. Throw in California's central valley, and you might make it. ' ' You didn't correct "La Cage au Faux". ' ' "lay the coat down and have her lay in it". What, an egg?

MEOWING COMMENTS (Tutihasi)

I think you need to be a blond Nordic like me to digest milk after you grow up. ' ' Restaurant meals may have only kept up with inflation since the 1960s, but they took a big jump between the war and then, as a result of human labor's being upvalued more than things were. ' ' Caffeine can interfere with sleep, of course. And it's a stimulant, something most kids don't need, and something i'd rather not have interfering with my natural make and Temper.

A PROPOS DE RIEN (Caughran)

I would not burn books that i would not read. ' ' You speak of "a phrase finder, or English question parser" for the CD Britannica. Does it give all the addresses of every phrase? Can you search for a passage that combines this phrase and that phrase?

The "Comments on Comments" heading is good, but couldn't you make it a spiral rather than a ring? ' ' "beating children" is

a loaded phrase, which misrepresents what we have said. ' ' There needs to be some punishment for criminals. I'd like to commit some crimes if i were not deterred by the prospect of punishment. Maybe prison isn't the best deterrent. Would you favor reviving the stocks or pillory, or branding or other mutilation? ' ' What motivates the companies or institutions to put so much information on line? ' ' Royalty are rich as well as famous. ' ' No, but the British upper class is separated from the merely rich by a definite line. Here, what is called the upper middle class shades into the middle class, and it is heterogeneous: It includes those who inherit fortunes, overpaid corporate executives, the power elite, the upper level of officeholders, upper academe, overpaid celebrities of the entertainment industries, ktp. And the middle class does not regard them as excelling in speech or manners. ' ' The saying is a little more generous, "All knowledge is contained in fanzines", not just FAPA. ' ' In commenting on Xtreme, you repeated three of your lines. Xtreme does that too. ' ' "Would people lost in virtual reality make more meaningful relationships without it?" Yes. ' ' Congressmen and legislators know what they're talking about. They dumb it down for the voters. ' ' The history book i studied in high school at least asked the question, "Did Polk go to war to get California?" A current textbook gives both sides of the argument over Vietnam. ' ' When i attended George Washington university, we were told that the shares of the Potowmack Canal that Washington donated to found a university in the nation's capital became worthless. ' ' I don't know about San Francisco, but some states allow cities to annex only contiguous territory. ' ' There is no question that John Clayton was a lord, Greystoke. ' ' Good king Wenceslas said "When we bear them thither." That's toting, in my book, not pulling.

SWEET JANE (Eklund)

Why are you "the Goose"? ' ' "largely exclusive distribution" and "largely most interesting". Minor mistakes in phrasing that mean absolutely nothing in the grand scheme. ' ' Does your knowledge of National League divisions go back before the war? ' ' Wasn't Alex Raymond's Dale Arden a brunette? Incidentally, how many blond heroes do you see in movies nowadays?

LOFGEORNOST (Lerner)

I thought the world's greatest painting was, by common consent, Mona Lisa. ' ' When Fred says "Sunday afternoon it seemed everyone in Madrid indeed was there", the "indeed" is correct, harking back to the guidebook's assertion to the same effect. Using it as a mere intensifier is like a commercial saying "Yes" when no one has asked. ' ' I wonder whether Madrid is the most centrally located of any major capital. ' ' Do you eat the jamon? ' ' "Centro de Arte" seems unspanish. If they don't insert the definite article (something i'll never learn to do properly in any foreign language), they probably liaise de Arte. More disturbing are "Palacio de El Pardo" and "San Lorenzo de El Escorial". ' '

I didn't think Canterbury cathedral sublime. I was struck by its deterioration. Maybe i'll have the same reaction when i see the Acropolis, having visited its perfect restoration in Nashville. (On the other hand, the real Stonehenge is more impressive than Jim Hill's copy of it in the Columbia gorge.) ' ' The gold of the Indies kept Spain at the forefront of Europe for another century. ' ' When did the king and the archbishop invite the Jews to return to Toledo? ' ' Russian railway gauge was different from that prevailing in Europe, so the Germans had prepared new trucks for the supply trains they sent after their armies. ' ' If the Spanish say "El Alcazar", they're repeating the usage i flinch at in "The el Escorial Monastery", since al- was the Arabic definite article. (Did Spanish el derive from it?) ' ' "El Parral suggested a religious tradition whose adherents had gone elsewhere." Or dwindled? There are what i think are called redundant churches in England, tourist attractions without congregations. ' ' It's hard to believe the Templars or their successors would have lost track of their alleged fragment of the true cross. ' ' "limestone underlaying Segovia". Though 'lie' is intransitive, 'underlie' is transitive.

Interesting autobiographical information on Bjo. ' ' I don't know what she means by "townie" privileges. ' ' J'ignore this "ancient Columbia dictionary found at the back of every classroom in those days." In Comanche it was always a Merriam-Webster "New International" I. ' ' I agree that James Joyce, Pablo Picasso, and Mohandas Gandhi are overrated.

I never heard of Castle Clinton, but this is a needed reminder that there were other famous Americans named Clinton. ' ' The tradition of boring songs interrupting the action of a movie is continued in such animated cartoons as Aladdin. ' ' Maybe there are reading protocols for sf. It's hard to imagine reading protocols that would cause me to enjoy what is called modern poetry, such as that in the Atlantic Monthly. ' ' "a detailed examination of interpersonal relationships (for which I look elsewhere, usually in that type of comedy of manners marketed as a thriller or a detective story)." I'd expect one to look in well-written romances such as Pride & Prejudice.

ROAD WARRIOR (Feller)

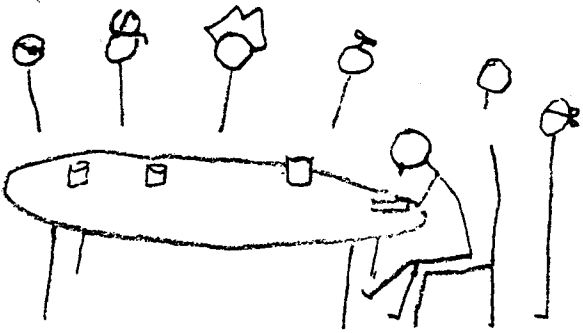
Are there no hickory trees around Old Hickory's home?

We saw it before the tornado. On that same Corflu trip, we got a ride alone in a stretch limousine to the Grand Old Opry. ' ' Tis true, one feels the motion of a ship long after leaving it.

I didn't know fife & drum music was predecessor to rhythm & blues. ' ' You mention among performers "Miss Nashville Kelly Speer". Was she a member of The Speer Family?

I read only part of Silas Marner. The class was divided into groups to script and perform it as a play, and i practiced my bit as Silas ("Mine! All mine!"). We never got clearance to put it on for the school, but i learned the denouement from another group's later act.

up jumped the swag-man
sprang into the billabong...



STUPEFYING STORIES (Eney)

Two arguments. That's too many. "her mouth a Greek O of shock." Omega? " Nothing seems to have happened to mark the point where Pyrrha turned into Sappho, and it's unclear why those two should have been identified as one.

BASILISK (Green)

Why bother to copyright your solicitation flyer?

Years ago, members of AqSFS were thinking up titles, and one was Certified Public Accountants of Gor. I might add that the woman who now heads Alpha Centura courageously took training to be an accountant, because that's the way to earn a living. " I didn't know anyone had hair on his ankles, except hobbits. " Ann must have had a kitchen already. Why should she kick you out of your office to make a kitchen? " On the other hand, this Brit has three "extremely"s on his first page. " I don't know who Bill Bryson is, but the OED doesn't support his notion that mugwump comes from the 17th century. " Is "our ... monastic retreat" for you and your woman? " Was Fantazia a mundane magazine?

Recent Vid Viewings is nearly all background and comment. What stories did they tell? " What's a sun bed? What's gormless?

"Roger Peyton has a US import edition of Russell's sequel, The Children of God, awaiting my collection." I think that's British for 'waiting for me to pick it up.' I've noticed our Australian Brits collecting people. " Did Burroughs write about a mermaid? " In ASFacts i showed that Tarzan and his great apes could not have brachiated like monkeys. If you're willing to grant for the sake of the story that he could swing through the trees, which is impossible, grant

Mugwump (mʊˈɡwʌmp), *sb.* U.S. [a. Natick *mugquomp* great chief (occurring in Eliot's Massachusetts Bible, e. g. in Gen. xxxvi. 15, where it answers to the 'duke' or the Eng. Bible).]

1. A jocular term for: A great man, a 'boss'.
1832 in *Nation* (1891) 21 May 414/3 It has extensively circulated among the Knights of Kadosh and the Most Worshipful Mugwumps of the Cabletow. 1877 J. H. BROWLEY in *N. Y. Tribune* 16 Feb., John A. Logan is the Head Centre, the Hub, the King Pin, the Main Spring, Mogul, and Mugwump of the final plot.

2. One who holds more or less aloof from party-politics, professing disinterested and superior views. In 1884, *spec.* applied to Republicans who refused to support the nominee of their party for president.
1884 *N. Y. Even. Post* 20 June (Cent.), We have yet to see a Blaine organ which speaks of the Independent Republicans otherwise than as Pharisees, hypocrites, dudes, mugwumps, transcendentalists, or something of that sort. 1884 W. EVERETT *Sp. at Quincy, Mass.* 12 Sept. (Stanf.), I am an independent—a Mugwump. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 22 Nov. 659/1 It may be that in a few years... a little group of British Mugwumps... will arise in their might [etc.]. 1888 *BRUCE Amer. Commw.* II. III. lvi. 379 The case of these Independents, or Mugwumps, is an illustrative one... Very few... take an active part in 'politics', however interested they may be in public affairs. 1890 C. L. NORTON *Polit. Americanisms* 74 Mugwump. 1898 *Academy* 22 Oct. 109 Halifax is, of course, the typical 'trimmer', which is to say 'mugwump' of Restoration politics.

3. *attrib. quasi-adj.* That is a mugwump; of or pertaining to mugwumps.
1890 in *Century Dict.*

Hence **Mugwump v. intr.**, to play the part of a mugwump; **Mugwumpery, Mugwumpism.**
1885 *Boston (Mass.) Jrnl.* 13 Apr. 2/2 Will E. Haskell of the Minneapolis Tribune says that 'Previousness is one of the worst characteristics of Mugwumpery'. 1887 *Nation* 31 Mar. 265/1 It will thus be seen that Mugwumpism is growing both in the East and the West. 1889 *N. Y. Tribune* 10 Mar. (Cent.), They mugwumped in 1884.

that he had intercourse only with one woman, his wife, which is possible. ' ' I am intrigued by the suggestion that a fan printed (hekto?) from a piece of cheese. Is that possible?

QUONDAM BLEEP (Chamberlain)

"And so doth second thoughts make cowards of us all." The plural is 'do'. ' ' When school kids of Comanche wrestled, the object was to take the other down, i e, with an arm around the back of his neck, force him under. Pinning the shoulders was not an aim. ' ' "I certainly found her appealing and easy to talk to". This is a more legitimate use of "found" than the use "I found it to be ...", common in this mailing, to declare something fact which is not necessarily so.

100 MILE CIRCUS (Katz)

Only within recent decades have i kept all the books that came my way. When i was still moving occasionally, i sometimes-- i shudder to think of it. I abandoned the Milton Caniff book Male Call, and other good things. I also stored some books with AqSFS founder Leon Hale, and when he sold his collection to the university of Arizona, he innocently included the books that were mine, one of which was Milt Gross's Dunt Esk.

"Supercalliflagellisticexpiorchiastic"



"Can Vampirella's papa kiss Vampirella?"

HIGHLIGHTS

Mintz in Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin: "it's been a good long time since I spent an afternoon looped on the fumes of rubber cement and white-out, ... while the cats lay about in the languorous poses of opium addicts."

Katz: "Feeling righteous for triumphing over temptation, no matter how slight, ..." "Like viruses that develop immunity to antibiotics, my typos are now so strong that they laugh at spellcheckers." "I tell this story, not because I want to add to his embarrassment -- that's a bonus -- but because it's election time." "Let me elucidate for the skeptical and hard-of-thinking."

Foyster: "if we were lucky we would get to the station before it started raining again. And the nearer we got to the station the faster we walked, as though having had so much good luck we didn't want to spoil it."

Mintz: "some days the body can keep on running for several hours after the mind has punched the time clock for the night."

Lichtman: "some of the hobbies I've engaged in have ... tended to have long half-lives beyond the initial infatuation."

Warner: "crime and violence stuff which I refuse to dignify with illegal dubbing."

Indick: "Today too many S-F writers are technicians who have taken their lab coats off for a while to turn out sterile words."

Silverberg: "I figured that buying a top-of-the-line computer guaranteed us against technical obsolescence for a good six to eight months."

Stevens: "Reading while riding a bicycle is more sensible than trying to have sexual intercourse while riding a bicycle, but not by a wide margin. I can see that either activity might gain you lots of additional time for reading while you were in traction in a local hospital." "I don't think I've read any of Vance's material since then. I can't think of any particular reason other than the expanding science fiction universe." "I've always believed that faith was what George Armstrong Custer had the day before the Battle of the Little Big Horn." "Then respectability set in. Christmas parties became about as much fun as a tax audit." "Ulrika O'Brien is a local LASFSian, but I can't say I know anything in particular about her. ... She probably has weight and occupies space." "At Denny's Restaurants, the food is awful, but the service is so slow you're willing to eat it by the time it arrives." "The 7-11 stores pipe music out front and always tune to a 'Music for Lowlife Creeps' station."

Graeme: "I grew up when the future had a future." "I've learned to do the things I love to do, and to hell with trying to imitate the trendoids in order to 'try to fit in.'"

Eklund: "I could never imagine not reading at all. It would be like going deaf." "unread books. ... My problem is that over the years my tastes have altered and I fear there may be no going back."

Lerner: "who can create the quintessentially exotic worlds that Jack Vance paints by permuting twenty-six letters".

BALTIMORES

I didn't see Pohl at Bucconeer. He has physical problems said Rothman, himself somewhat enfeebled.

At dinner, Arthur L Widner offered Milton A Rothman the idea for a takeoff which Rothman didn't use: Milt does more than malton can To justify God's ways to man. Maybe Milty isn't hep to John Milton or a Shropshire Lad.

At room parties i questioned two survivors of the first convention (not feeble) about who suggested the word "convention". Madle said Wollheim did though Kyle would claim it. Kyle said no one in particular suggested it, but the 1936 conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties were on everyone's mind.

The fat disease, whose ravages are apparent at every convention, has John Boardman among its victims. I suppose that was the same John Boardman who was a lean mean Red and Diplomacy-player in the 1950s, but i couldn't see the resemblance.

The convention facilities were generally good. Large rooms were provided for the audiences attracted by science topics. (There was a surprising number of programs about dinosaurs.) One area where the concommittee erred was in assigning only a single room to a program on how to break into writing sf, at which the crowd overflowed the doorway.

In nearly every room, the panel were seated on a platform, so the audience could see and understand them better. There was much passing of the microphone back&forth, with reference to the directions to do this for the sake of the taping. As always, the people sitting the tables to take orders for tapes seemed to have little business, and i wonder why they bother.

I also wonder why many of the hucksters bother. Do they get enough profit from sales at the convention to pay for their time?

Due to the Convention Center's pulling back several rooms at the last minute, the socalled hospitality room was moved to the Marriott, several blocks west by north of the convention center. I would guess that only fen staying in the Marriott made much use of it before the Dead Parrot party. (I was embarrassed by Dick Eney's unseemly hilarity in the filking at that party.)

The fan room (foom?) was in another hotel several blocks northeast of the convention center. It was nowhere near as big or as well supplied as the ones at LAcon and LoneStarCon, but was apparently adequate for the number of fen who found their way to it. And it stayed open later than the one at LoneStarCon.

I didn't go to any of the daily gripe sessions. If i had, i'd have stated a complaint against Registration for not keeping its word. My flights being late, i got into town after midnight Tuesday on the last light-rail train of the evening, northbound, and got off near the Marriott where registration was supposed to be open till 0100. An employee told me the registrars had packed up early. The result was that i had to carry baggage eight or ten blocks north to my hotel when i could have ridden.

(The following day a Tanrydoon friend let me out at the convention center long enough to register, then took me to Annapolis, where he lives. The UPS office in Annapolis promised

that my parcel of Synapses would reach Forman Friday, being delivered whether or not anyone was home. It didn't.)

One room-shift that appeared to be unnecessary was that on Libertarian SF. When we were halfway through the (50-minute) hour, a crowd of fen discovered us and came from next door, where we had been originally scheduled and where, missing us, they had organized a discussion of their own. Arlan Andrews was on our panel, as a libertarian Republican the one spokesman up there for libertarianism. That annoyed some Libertarians in the audience, including the local chairman, who also used their Worldcon Daily Frefanzine to criticize the concom for not putting a thoroughgoing Libertarian on the panel. Arlan was coy about how Libertarianism would deal with specific problems, contenting himself with repeating that the Declaration of Independence expresses the essentials of the ideology.

A collateral event was the Hogus. Most of its awards, which i think were not reported in the Fannish Armada, seemed to go to people starring in events of the mundane world, notable among these Ken "

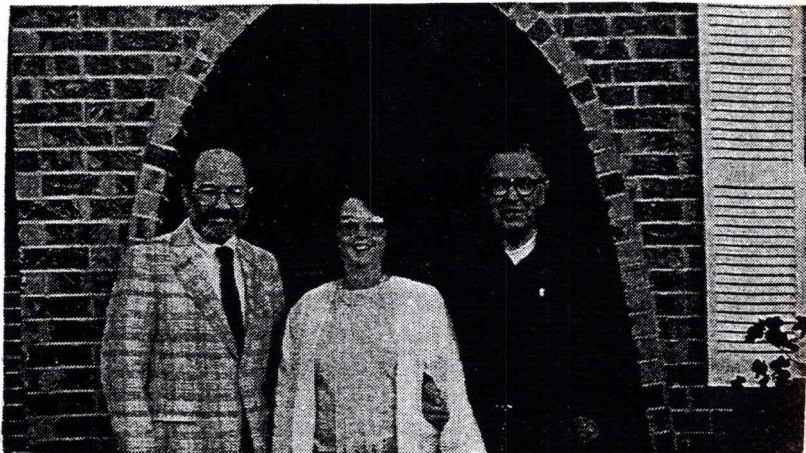
A Kaffeeklatsch with Ackerman yielded an interesting datum. After he had told again how Cyril Kornbluth hit him in the stomach when he arrived for the Nycon (to which his failure to hit back had seemed to me to epitomize Acky's pacifism), i asked whether he had ever been in a fight. Yes, he had: A boy who kept annoying and teasing, Forry angrily rassled down and sat on till he promised to do it no more.

A troupe of five professional actors (i wonder how the practice of hiring actors started) dressed as pirates performed at the closing, and i suppose other, ceremonies. I'm told some of the songs at the closing were about going to Australia for the 1999 worldcon, and other stefnal subjects, but without a song sheet or subtitles i didn't get it.

At the convention center the morning after, feeling like one who treads alone some banquet-hall deserted, whose lights are fled, whose garlands dead, and all but he departed, i found Roger Sims and wife had not departed. They led me to a pleasant cruise of the bay, and when we parted i recommended fort McHenry to them. Then i went to the Civil War museum, where i learned shocking things about federal tyranny during the war.

"Has there ever been a fist fight between two guests of honor?"

This is the Tacketts with
Fred Lerner (the bearded one).



GOODBYE TO ALL THAT

As some of you know, Roy's wife Eleen Haas had terminal cancer. She held it off longer than the predicted year, but toward the end wasted away till she was weak and irritable. The last sf meeting she came to, after some of us had gotten Roy from his wheelchair into their car and were mounting the collapsed wheelchair on the back of the car, Eleen said she didn't know how much longer she could take this. She'd like to get in the car and just drive and keep driving.

Nearly all of the substantial crowd who attended her memorial service (she was cremated) were from the sf community. Il y avait some, such as Sal diMaria, whom i hadn't seen for a long time. Es gab neckties on men i had never seen them on before. Roy then had the bunch out to his place, where his daughters and stepdaughter provided eats.

He was to live in a room chez his daughter Rene in the canyon through which Route 66 enters Albuquerque from the east. Naturally he couldn't take much with him.

At the next Alpha Centura meeting, Roy invited everyone to come to 915 Green Valley road Saturday and take things that would otherwise be given away or thrown away.

The library at Eastern New Mexico university, which already housed important sf collections, took his sf magazines and books. The men from Portales missed some books, and such of these as were not picked out by persons present Saturday were boxed for later sale through the local clubs, for the benefit of Eleen's daughter. Videocassettes (other than Judy Garland, which Roy kept) were free.

Along with those, that Saturday the accumulations of a lifetime lay around us. Many things stored in the garage passed from Eleen's daughter's hands to other hands to the large trash disposal trailer that stood in the driveway; but some, including Alpha archives, were diverted along the way and saved.

I went with Eleen's son-in-law Jerry Bemis to the sheds where Roy and Chrystal used to keep horses. Jerry and Rene chose from garden tools and machines there.

Nearby was an area where the Tacketts once had a garden. Someone said Roy gave up gardening ten years ago. A good move; it allowed him more time to do other things while he was still able-bodied. I got into parts of the place that i'd never been on before. I gathered ripe Concord grapes, and plums from a tree Roy didn't know he had. It was sad to see all this about to pass into the hands of purchasers of the property, and to see the reminders of activities that will never be taken up again.

A dumpster-diving couple among us rescued from the trash trailer a folding steel cot in perfect condition, perhaps to dispose of at a garage sale. Some of our members sat in a yard swing and facing chairs while their children played on the front lawn. Household goods and bricabrac, that anyone could have, had been set in the sunroom, and members took much. One said she felt like a vulture; but Roy wanted people he knew to have what they could use before the residue went to those ultimate donees, salvage charities.

He pointed out a couple of places where non-sf books were, and i loaded up. They were heavy on Roman and other ancient history.