

SYNAPSE

Published May04 for FAPA 267 by Jack Speer, 2416 Cutler NE, AqNM 87106

DENDRITES

The article tht ends this issue was written last year as an I Boob column in response to Alpha Centura's chief of staff solici-ting material for another Alpha Centura Communicator, which again has not materialized.

I have now gone through all my old stefnistic files and put most of them into new folders newly labeled.

Some of you expressed surprise tht i ever broke up FAPA mailings to file the magazines according to who produced them. In mailing 46, Laney discussed which way FAPAZines should be filed, and concluded tht each zine was best put with other fmz from (and correspondence with) the same editor. I wasn't influenced by that, because i was already filing them by the city from which they came, and continued doing so up to about mailing 50. After that, i kept the mailing envelopes and their contents together.

As i went through those geographical folders recently, when i saw a zine with "FAPA" and some number penciled in the upper right corner, i pulled it out. Those are now in a couple of file drawers, waiting to be sorted and assembled into the first four dozen bundles.

Even that scheme isn't always simple. When i was OE i didn't receive or keep a single mailing bundle. When activity waivers came to me as secytreas from several FAPAns, should they be in a FAPA file? Some of the responses also contain personal letters to me. How about requests for waivers when i wasn't secytreas? I ended up putting such waivers in the file for the person whose lactivity was waived. Likewise campaigns for a particular TAFF candidate.

With nonFAPA fmz there were more questions. Eventually i used whatever labeling of the folder would best enable me to recover it. I don't remember the name of the sfan who put out The Fantopologist, but i remember that title, because it was about topology, so i labeled that folder with the fanziname. When it was hard to tell who was primarily responsible for English fmz of the early period, i just labeled them London, Liverpool, or Leeds, as the case might be --a throwback to the original scheme of categorizing fmz and fen by location.

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EPIMETHEUS

Mailing 266

FANTASY AMATEUR

In the Pavlat Poll form, five is too many spaces for some categories, such as artist and humorist, and too few for others, such as mailing comments and personal writings. I voted, electricly.

NICE DISTINCTIONS (Hlavaty)

"In Wile E. we trust." Not all contests between coyote and roadrunner end as shown in the movies. Netherwood Park is a neighborhood of trees and lawns, and all runoff ends in a block-large ponding area. From the stream there, the water is pumped up to the drainage canal whose embankment looms over the houses across Cutler street. (Cyclists using the path on the embankment seem from here to be riding along the ridgepoles of those houses.) After a neighborhood meeting there, Ruth and I saw a coyote cross the ponding area. Coyotes come from the hills into the city along the drainage canals, and are thought to be a danger to pets. A man residing near the ponding area said he found roadrunner feathers there. That may explain why for months no chaparral cocks visited our back yard.

"homosexual" is as much a noun as 'human' is. \\ You apparently have no trouble indenting paragraphs after the first one under a rubric. \\ When the author and the afternotes refer to chapters rather than pages, it makes using a book harder. I suppose working page numbers into the final book would require extra work at the publishing end. \\ Your not including Jews in "white" is even worse than not including Hispanics in that designation.

NICE DISTINCTIONS (bis)

"Abercrombie & Fitch was in trouble for having an insufficient number of dark-skinned people in their catalogs."

Did Shrub really scream "Gobble, gobble, gobble. Don't slaughter me!"

A bygone dictionary thought "twat" was a garment because of the citation "a nun's twat".

FISH WRAP STORIES (Cantor)

With your affectation of British usage--you even spell jail "gaol"--you should be referring to smartasses. "smartass" just means smartdonkey. (The affectation is defective: you have "centre" and "laborers" in the same line.)

That "reinvented Mimeo" tht reproduces from a paper master doesn't sound like a mimeo at all. \\ "contaminates" is a loaded word when speaking of radioactive particles. Anything is slightly

radioactive. A writer shouldn't use that word unless the amount of radioactivity involved poses significant danger. \\
 Clinton's hits in retaliation for the embassy bombing got surprisingly little play in news media tht i saw. \\
 Karen Anderson was a member of FAPA. \\
 "I still enjoy it. I just find it unutterably boring to read about it." When "it" is repeated without referring to the same thing, one should find alternative phrasing.

Two of the Rotsler illos are striking. The one on the back looks like the cone rotated at the beginning of Twilight Zones.

SAFARI (Kemp)

At Corflu, you may have seen my marginotes on only your first page. I also marked "Good" beside "several wind chimes to twirl and clatter in the afternoon breezes." \\
 Opposite one of your footnotes which apparently referred to the title on the previous page, i wrote "One does not notice the original asterisk." Or remember it.

"the sharply blue waters ... greeted her gaze in warm welcome". I like that. Alliteration, but not so much as to become comic: "overwhelming feeling of belonging." Too many ings.

JUPITER JUMP (Manning)

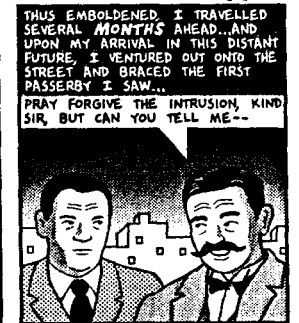
What towel?

What you quoted from the Fox Network is extreme compared to anything i have seen, so i don't think it's typical. \\
 I was surprised tht you referred to vigils in Duvall. That town must have changed since i knew it. \\
 Do you think we should not have aided Britain after France fell? What do you think we should have done after Pearl Harbor? \\
 "countries the US military has bombed or invaded". that's a pretty wide verb phrase. (Bombing Libya, for example, was a far cry from invading it.) And when you mention such countries as Indonesia and Peru, you seem to stretch the phrase to include conspiring against their governments before you get to "countries where the US government sponsored coups".

To say tht we invaded Korea 1950-53 when what we did was respond to an invasion of South Korea is odd. In many cases, the purpose wasn't to

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BY TOM TOMORROW



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establish "a pattern of freedom springing forth fully developed from US intervention like Aphrodite from the brow of Zeus" (you and Tom Tomorrow exaggerate your opponents' claims to something tht would be impossible to defend). The purpose was to curb Communist expansion. However, it is worth noting tht eventually all of Latin America except Cuba became free, a condition tht had rarely existed before. When you criticize our "supporting" corrupt regimes like Haiti and the Philippines, what would you have had us do--embargo and intervene? \\ I'd be interested to hear how "on the streets of King County today ... this war is doing real damage to citizens' freedoms." I haven't seen it in Bernalillo county. Not long ago we saw a parade down Central of people carrying signs and shouting against the war in Iraq. \\ I don't believe the fears tht the victors would "flood the media with planted evidence" of WMD have materialized. \\ By "TV cameras capturing scenes of genocide", i suppose you mean the Israelis hitting Palestinian targets. The word "genocide" should never have been invented; invented, it should be restricted to something like the Holocaust. \\ "Arab nationalism ... becoming a unified regional force." That seems like a serious possibility. \\ "Iraq's reconstruction will be done on the cheap." Maybe so, but it's taking a lot of gigadollars. \\ If Shrub calculated tht the second Iraq war would boost his chances of election (i won't say re-), it appears he miscalculated. Unless something happens like an Iraqi government tht successfully blends majority rule with protecting minorities, the Republicans seem likely to lose out in November. (Capturing Osama bin Laden would help them too.) \\ What is the source of your long quotation from Hermann Goering? Your quotation from Yves Simon about what the Germans wanted seems inconsistent with Goering's statement. And at the end of your quotation, Simon seems to be saying tht the free world should be active in opposing dictatorships.

Were fmz in the Dutch apa written in Dutch or in English?

I'm impressed at your taking Persian. Do you think you might become a translator or interpreter?

EXCLAM (Calvert)

I'd like it if you'd put more space between the columns, so my marginotes would be easier to write and to see.

"/e/v/e/n /a/m/o/n/g /p/e/o/p/l/e /w/h/o /a/r/e /n/o/t /f/a/n/s". It looks as if your computer, like mine, will not do strikeouts for humorous or other effect. \\ "But I've gotten used to that. I still haven't got used to ..." Both forms of past participle are acceptable, of course, but we usually expect the writer to pick one. \\ There are probably a dozen "really"s in this issue, hardly any of them necessary. \\ There were episodes in the last year of classic Trek tht made saving the show worth while. \\ You are the first person i've ever seen to remark "I don't watch nearly enough television." \\ The "no slidewalks effect" is good, but i don't think it'll catch on. The highway car tht can fly is a better representative of the future tht never happened. \\ You have some emphaticly orphaned lines, like "that" all alone on page

8.

As orphaned as this 8. Such isolated lines may even be overlooked. \\ When wordprocessing systems will barely allow normal indentation, nonstop paragraphing would be not laborsaving but extra trouble.

"the gray gulfs of gafia". Is that something like the grey isles? \\ With the particle accelerators they already have, why do physicists need larger ones?

GEGENSCHHEIN (Lindsay)

What's an infrared modem?

Why were you interested in residing near a concentration of hospitals?

I'm afraid i skipped to the back pages. \\ Though Denny Lein apparently is an American, i don't understand "new autographed books from Gordy are Right Out, alas." I guess tht what foreigner Lloyd Penney speaks of as corrugations are what we call washboard roads. (How many of you have seen a washboard?) \\ Some of your WAHFs go on at length. \\ Again, it would be nice to have an indication of what part of the universe such correspondents as Lilian Edwards live in, her climatic comments being particular to her place. \\ I suppose most people now know tht solar on the go isn't enough to power an ordinary car, much less a ground-effect vehicle.

GEGENSCHHEIN (bis)

You mention sugar farmers hoping alternative fuel will clear their surpluses. Someone on the West Wing, probably "Toby", said ethanol is a fraud, taking more energy to produce than it yields. I don't know about that, but i worry we're using up our topsoil to produce such surpluses and exports.

53 vanloads of stuff to move? I find that hard to believe. \\ "the first line of each paragraph should be slightly indented." If it's indented in the web edition, why isn't it in the paper edition?

SANSEVIERIA (Speirs)

Rhetorical questions are not supposed to be answered.

"dealers are helping with the assessment of the collection." Is the library thinking of selling off parts of it? \\ What's a riot grrl?

Are those scorecards you run from some computer game supposed to be of interest to us?

I'll bet Saskatchewan doesn't control the potash mines in New Mexico. \\ "angry Customs officers trying to hold back the deluge." With guns? At some point i think border guards are going to have to start using deadly force. \\ What are the stefnic elements in "Those Who Remember" and "Lost Road"? \\ "a la Canuck". Are Canucks feminine? \\ "freedom, not just liberty". I didn't know there was a difference.

I wonder how S A Stern knows tht the Kuiper Belt's objects are rich in water and organics, and tht it has 10,000 objects up

to 50 kilometers in radius. \\ Anywhere there are slight differences in pronunciation of some words from generation to generation and region to region. That hasn't held back the Spanish, for example, from fonetik spelling. \\ There are several "different ... than"s in this issue.

Hereabout, the post office doesn't cancel on Sunday anyway. \\ "Science fiction began in 1927, notwithstanding H.G. Wells." In that debatable statement, i suppose you meant to say 1926, when Amazing Stories debuted. \\ Don't budgets affect appropriations? It surprised me to learn tht a private organization's budget doesn't automatically authorize the treasurer to reimburse expenditures tht are within the budget; writing a check still has to be approved by the governing board. \\ And i'm also surprised tht Albertans think windmill farms visually pollute. Those i've seen in southern California, eastern New Mexico, and the Texas panhandle interest the traveler. \\ When timber companies take the trees from land to turn into lumber, does that leave a nutrient-poor soil for reforestation?

The Devonshire Ancestry of Howard Phillips Lovecraft seems like a cranked-up version of the kind of research Everts does.

Some of the typewriters illustrated have only three rows of keys. The typewriter i used for a while to pub my ish was like that. The Corona most resembles my memory of it. There were three characters to a bar and two different shift keys.

ALPHABET SOUP (Stevens)

Franking, as you call it, is not authorized by the FAPA constitution. But, yes, all credentials requirements should be abandoned for the present. \\ Can one know when he's being cussed in a tonal language? I doubt we can tell when a question is being asked in Chinese. \\ "what she had thought was bad was good and what she thought was good was bad." That's ethics, not metaphysics. \\ Though their loyalties were to their own cities, the Greeks distinguished between Greeks and barbarians (maybe that's linguistic). And they joined in the Olympic games. \\ "they tried to cultivate the No Mind." I thought no meant of in Japanese. Did you mean it in English? \\ Were there any lesbian rats in the experiment? \\ How many police wash their hands fifty times a day?

DEVILS WORK (Metcalf)

The Cold Equations idea must have arisen many times in a maritime context. A subtype is the lifeboat situation. \\ There were a number of females in LASFS when i visited circa 1946. Es gab Morojo, of course, Pogo out on the edge, Beverly Bronson, Tigrina, Abby Lu Ashley, Lora Crozetti, a Helen Finn and daughter, another Helen,. \\ I think any logicly consistent littleness story must postulate tht the shrunk ones move and live faster. \\ Doesn't something like the Silverlock Companion spoil the sport of identifying the allusions? \\ "If women don't submit they are not published." Women must submit! \\ From one step in the process of tracking down ffrancis Archer as the killer of Christopher Marlowe, i infer tht in such spellings as Ffordes, doubling the

first letter just means it's a capital. \\ Spenser's spelling was Faerie Queene. \\ How has string theory rationalized the possibility of time travel?

CATCHPENNY GAZETTE (Burton)

I notice you use the circled c, which many pubbers but not you hiccup after "Copyright". I don't know whether it's a valid substitute for the word, except on a work of art.

The last time i watched Treasure of the Sierra Madre, i had a feeling which i now interpret to signify tht "We don't need no stinkin badges" is a conflation like "Play it again, Sam." (I watched it again just now and it was close to this: "Badges? We got no badges. We don't need to show you no stinkin badges.") \\ That was 5 votes for you out of how many?

"eating a hamburger with Tom Digby (didn't know who much he was until later)" is an interesting manner of speech. \\ The Decker Dillies did multicolor mimeographing with a standard mimeo by changing the ink pad. How does a multicolor Roneo electric mimeograph do it?

Is a "powerhouse" Timex-Sinclair 1000 the computer tht sold for \$50?

RIDE THE LIGHTNING (Sabella)

The "waiting time" of a novel is an interesting idea. In Poe's theory of the short story, i suppose there'd be nothing superfluous, but in a novel there is, and we can hope it's enjoyable. \\ Pages out of a magazine and bound are credible to me. It was common in the early days of sf collecting. \\ Someone who says "west of the Mason-Dixon Line" might well think South Jersey is west Jersey. \\ Before you expound on the nature of grammar, you would do well to know what grammars say. They don't, as you think, forbid splitting infinitives or putting a preposition at the end of a sentence. \\ I suppose there is a limit to how much parents can encourage students before that backfires, but the limit seems higher in Jewish families, and rarely reached. \\ I wouldn't consider Vatican II or Mao's Cultural Revolution of the same scale as the French Revolution or the fall of Communism.

In describing The Stars My Destination as inspired by a famous work, do you refer to earlier versions of the same story? \\ There are no inherent meanings of "fantasy" and other words. Whether sf is a type of fantasy is a matter of the consensus of the commenting readers, something tht has changed in seventy years. \\ You have a peculiar idea of what "axiom" means. \\ I don't believe anyone else has classified alternative history as fantasy (i e, pure fantasy). Denying a historical fact is different from denying a scientific principle. Nonexistent presidents are now so common on television (e g, implied in "First Kid" and "My Date with the President's Daughter") tht the stories hardly require that effort to suspend disbelief which used to be the essence of fantasy or stef. \\ I don't think boards of education are filled with politicians. They tend to be filled with leading citizens, especially businessmen, who would shudder at being called

politicians (but know how to protect their business interests). \\
 How did the Song of Roland theoreticly impact his civilization? \\
 To Fred Pohl, the old days would be before and during WW2. \\
 Comparing the current misdeeds of Moslems with those of Christians
 in the bad old days of the Spanish Inquisition etcetera ignores
 the ameliorations tht have occurred in Christendom. \\ Corflu
 Blackjack wasn't so much devoted to fanzine publishing as it was
 to fannishness.

GRANDFATHER STORIES (DeVore)

Obviously this was typed for you by someone else, who perhaps
 added material to what you drafted or dictated. She did a good
 job. The main weakness i noticed was tht she thinks a comma will
 do the work of a semicolon.

The last pages seem to have been printed off some website;
 unidentified, but the comma splices suggest they were typed by the
 same amanuensis.

I agree: the best thing to do would be to start over with
 new kids. And in a different state.

VOICE OF THE HABU (Wells)

I don't see chemically why sourdough or rye bread wouldn't
 cause a sugar rush almost as much as wheat bread.

NUMBER ONE (McInerney)

I remember your movie reviews.

Whereas another FAPAn persistently put apostrophes in the
 possessive its, you don't put them in the it-is contraction. \\
 You ought to consistently space like that before as well as after
 your // separators. \\ NAPA and other mundane apas provided the
 model for FAPA, but that wasn't the beginning of sf fanzines. \\
 On Visions of Paradise, "I do wish there was some connection to FAPA
 herein, ie mailing comments." Sabella has another FAPazine for
 mailing comments, Ride the Lightning. Instead of ie, you probably
 mean e g. \\ I didn't notice your "blunt opinions about their
 zines" for anyone to be offended by. (Note, Bob Sabella, in
 this paragraph i have both split an infinitive and ended with
 a preposition.)

This faan fiction seems to be mostly dropping names with
 characterizations tht may or may not be on target (e g, Sandra
 Bond insisting "on everyone following the rules of law.")

I guess you hand-colored the flowers the lady strews.

TARGET FAPA (Eney)

I hadn't noticed you were as heavy as 218 suggests. \\
 Two concepts are confused in "Sounds like a conflict of interest
 to me. Aphrodite should have recused herself." Judges recuse
 themselves for any of many reasons. It's a lawyer who must avoid
 a conflict of interest in taking on more than one client, or
 a client whose interests may conflict with his own. \\ I didn't

know Wonder Wart-Hog had an alter ego. The only issue i saw (and donated to a supposed collection in Australia), he was just a wart-hog. \\ It's news to me tht the Moslems converted the Israelites who remained in the Holy Land; more news tht presentday Palestinians are their descendants. \\ "long-half-life radioactive waste", as i mentioned to Tim Marion, is less active than short-life ditto, other things being equal. \\ Yes, Patton notwithstanding, it was Danton who said toujours de l'audace. \\ With the cost-of-living adjustment every year, Social Security dollars should not depreciate once payout starts. And the five dollars in other taxes collected will not for the most part come from Social Security recipients. But with the Republicans running huge deficits, they must be funding them largely with IOUs in the Social Security fund, and the government will have to pay benefits out of current taxes. \\ The Second Solution, by A E van Vogt. If i had the decimal index in handy form, it might remind me what the solution was. \\ Is it necessary to have the same number of chromosomes from each contributor for fertilization to occur? \\ I suppose it was feminist sentiment tht brought that most applause for Eowyn's defiance.

No doubt you know--but you don't mention--tht Roger de Coverley is a name from Addison.

In Fifth Act it was often not clear which side was doing the described action. You even speak of "British stacheln", an unlikely phrase. I marked "German?" in the margin again and again. Understanding would have been a little easier if i had read your afternote before reading the story.

This was as far as i got in the mailing before starting Epimetheus. I'm usually skeptical of members saying they'll finish commenting next time, but i have done it before, and only non-recurring demands on my time kept me from finishing in this issue. Anyway, i want to jump ahead to

COLD AS A POLITICIANS HEART (Morningstar)

to comment tht if the simile in the title were proper, you would be labeling all the main characters in the West Wing as cold-hearted. Be fair, Janice.

And nagging in the rear is, of course,

SYNAPSE

I had a repetitive streak: "i i", "the the", and "discussing discussing". And i wrote "nanotechmology". When the spellcheck notes the word, i must have assumed that was because the vocabulary isn't up to date, and let it stand.

Another argument tht might have been made for not carrying out Overlord in 1943 was tht our troops needed more training. I don't know why more than a year of training would be necessary. Of course the troops tht hit the Normandy beaches were inexperienced, but i don't think any soldiers (other than generals) who got experience in North Africa were brought round to join in Overlord.

HIGHLIGHTS

Hlavaty: "the labor theory of value, which is Marx's phlogiston."

Speirs: "Some SF clubs raise money for food banks or other charities. Commendable, but the poor will always be with us, and money donated there is gone with the wind. A library leaves a legacy". "It is the collective of readers who define a genre".

Stevens: (On Everts's contribution:) "Evidence is mounting up. Most Weird Tales writers appear to have been living at one time or another." "Maybe Hercules and Xena had used up all my tolerance for mulched history." "I've occasionally experienced the desire to sell professionally, but I realize that isn't the same thing as wanting to write for money."

Metcalf: "the Average Jophans droning around Queen Bjo."

Sabella: "my Recommended Reading list, that black hole of books".

McInerney: "... cassette tapes 350+, and Laser Discs 60+, but I seldom listen to or watch any of them. It is reassuring to know they are there when I need or want them". "It is a stressful job at times, but not as stressful as having no job."

Eney: "convinced Kitchener early on that machine-guns had just the same effect on British troops that they had on Dervishes".

"I haven't caught a fish all day!" Tom said, without debate.

PSEUDOSCIENCE FICTION

There should be a subdivision of sffy designated pseudoscience-fiction. This is stories (usually in comics or movies) tht are not pure fantasy or weird fiction, because they offer a pseudo scientific explanation, "bitten by a radioactive spider", "big rigs maddened by a rogue comet", "I suppose it could have something to do with harmonics, ethereal vibrations caused by your music", or the multifarious effects of meteorites in the vicinity of Smallville. But those are explanations tht even a layman's knowledge of science would brand as clearly false, and therefore not science-fiction.

There's a further category of sf ideas tht a scientific mind would know to be false, but the popular imagination tolerates. These include vitalism (the idea tht living things are alive because of a "life force"), the idea tht thought exists apart from the brain, the idea tht psi powers exist, the idea tht giant things can move the same as scaled-down versions, or the idea tht a ship can exceed the speed of light by "folding space" or something.

At times the distinction between pseudoscience-fiction and pure fantasy must be thin, as in distinguishing between My Favorite Martian and I Dream of Jeannie. But My Favorite Martian probably comes within Clarke's rule tht a sufficiently advanced technology will seem indistinguishable from magic. The Martian's abilities aren't presented as magic; i presume they're given the pseudo explanation tht Martians can do anything with a gesture because of their superior science and endowments.