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△ SYNAPSE △

Published for FAPA 121 by Jack Spear, 1301 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque NM

DENDRITES

I missed a mailing, due to press of other things and absence of Leon Hale, who had been providing facilities and most of the labor for mimeoing. He was in camp then, but now he has moved away, and i am back with Son of Moby Dick doing my own mimeography.

22 pages this time, with 26 last time, makes an even total.

Bob Kyrlach is a highschool teacher. I met him in Albuquerque Astronomers.

Dickie Dare is racing the deadline again, and wondering how much longer mail will take to get to Pavlat than to Felz. If you don't see this Synapse in the mailing, you may know that i cut it too close.

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Mailing 119

EPIMETHEUS

FANTASY AMATEUR

Even if we got points for being voted weird & pervery, i don't see where some of the points in the grand total came from, Leej. '' The thousand points at discretion in future polls doesn't seem a good idea. We need some structuring in egoboo polls; we just need to think more about the weight of each category.

HELENS FANTASIA

The linoleum block cut is very good.

There's a Walla Walla Washington. What does walla walla mean in the Orient?

I thought the Thai language more resembled Sanskrit, at least in its alphabet. And Cambodia is an offshoot of Hindu civilization, isn't it? But i guess the physical characteristics of the Thais are more Chinese. '' Was Thailand under Allied occupation after the war?

There are two stories of a machine producing an endless amount of something: salt and soup.

Is it religious differences that keep India from developing its resources, or just religion?

Well, Marion has a membership because she used to be a valuable member. Walter has one because a majority voted to admit him to membership, and he hasn't admitted to anything since.

Offhand, the only responsibility i would hold Bohemians to, which some try to dodge, is military service. If they don't make or own enough to be subject to taxation, that's all right, and if they don't ask welfare checks from the government, that's fine, let them pursue their experiment of minimizing obligations. '' The quotation from Bloch's The Dead Beat must be several years old. The description sounds like what we would have called hippies this summer, and not like beatniks.

TAFF BALLOT

Terry, i'm not sure i understand what you call the Australian Ballot (it's really what's called the preferential ballot, isn't it?) Does your example "if of 100 votes four candidates get 40-30-20-10" mean "any time the top man doesn't get a majority"? After you've explained this, maybe you'll explain proportional representation to me. '' What's this bond that TAFF candidates post?

DEVILS WORK (Metcalf)

Why do you Berkeley people say "P.O. Box" soandso? Wouldn't "Box" suffice?

How can the trash that an author writes outweigh the good stuff? By the time he's dead, we read only a selection, in which the trash need not be represented at all. If you just went by sheer volume, almost any author's mediocre-or-worse would be greater than the memorable.

"so bad that they're beyond mediocrity" is what some people say "camp" means

I was gafia in 1951 when And Then There Were None came out. Never cared much for EFR anyway, and if the story is in an anthology i have, i still haven't read it.

HORIB

I don't believe Virgil Partch was active in fandom before he became a commercial cartoonist. " Writing is an important part of my work, but i write for very small audiences, usually only the judge or judges and opposing counsel--very critical audiences too. " "if not Negroes per se" --you know what per se means?

HORIZONS

Are there channels around Washington above the usual 13-1 of old sets? You mention UHF. " Pacifism works in your personal life partly because you live under law. Nations don't. " I too would favor ending the special within-six-months activity requirement for new members. Giving the surplus bundles to the top waitlisters may be a good idea too. " You prepare to ask one question and ask another. As a general thing, a college student doesn't pay income tax on the money his parents spend for his education; they are spending the money as they wish, and perhaps to fulfill a legal obligation of support and education, so it's taxable to them. When he inherits money, it's his to do with as he wishes. I don't buy the idea that the heir usually earns the inheritance by making his parents happier than anyone else has made them. If the parents exercise any choice--and most of them don't--it's on the basis of what the heir is, not what he's done for them.

The time restrictions etc on scripting Star Trek are not "an impossible number". The sonnet form is pretty constricted too, but working within its limitations, poets have produced some good work.

Scots law had a verdict "Not proven". " There is such a thing as a Line-a-Time, which keeps a guide under the last line being copied, and should avoid modulation into what follows the same word in the line below. " I did something equivalent to the "correct" or "cq" in parentheses, when i wrote "(Sic)" after the title Though with Rule and Line, and Elsnor, or whoever, copied it with the sic.

If one clutches a TV set to bosom for hours, what physical damage might result from the radiation?

What's the difference between video tape and kinoscoping?

MANEKI NEKO (Trimble)

What's an obligee-publisher? Japanese equivalent of vanity press? " Are these prozines and fanzines Shibano mentions published in Japanese in roman type, or one of the character-systems? " Did the Japanese fen know about American s-f fandom when they started Japanese fandom?

Are the Watts Towers buildings or monuments? I mean, hollow or solid?

Perhaps the best approach to defining the field of "scholarship" for a Hugo would be to award a Hugo to the kind of work you're thinking of, and then let the category expand and be defined on an ad-hoc basis.

DAMBALLA

"Hotfout" is an expression of pleasure.

I would guess that you have life insurance, in whatever amount you think is needed and you can afford. Why put money into extra coverage by travel insurance, where the odds against you are worse than on a carnival roulette wheel?

FANTASY PRESS (McPhail)

To whom did you distribute the early Science Fiction News? What gave you the idea of publishing it?

It's surprising how many of the names you intended to write up in Fan-Facts are still around.

Danaline's drawing is good.

POLHODE (Meskys)

Even in purple, this is more readable than microelite mimeoed.

It seems odd that there should be a course devoted entirely to cosmic rays. Almost as improbable as the course in "demurrers" referred to in an old movie.

They must have started renumbering the Boskones, if you lately attended Boskone 4.

What's the Schwartzfield limit on collapsing stars?

Fiction books arranged by the first name of the author?

I liked the information on the handling machine. I've read a bit about the chessplaying computer, and would like more information of this sort.

One local conference that draws from more than 100 miles away is the Westercon.

SPIANE (Moffatt)

I didn't realize it was George Orwell who wrote Raffles and Miss Blandish. Maybe his name wasn't familiar to me when I read the article in a 1944 or 1945 Horizon. It was an interesting thesis, the contrast between gentlemanly detective stories and the violence and cruelty of No Orchids for Miss Blandish.

SERCONS BANE

I'm more in favor of starting from the back of the alphabet occasionally and working forward. The order in which one's FAPazine appears in the bundle is more within a person's control than the letter his surname starts with; we can be near the top and thus get more attention from commenters, by getting our FAPazines in early (and I'm still not exactly doing that, this being stenciled the Sunday night before deadline).

Gee, hadn't seen a new scientific combination for a blue moon, until you came up with "The hell with arguing about Viet Nam".

You may be thinking of an instance of electoral-vote majority and popular-vote minority, in the Cleveland-Harrison race.

If both sides cooperated in getting to the moon, it would destroy a lot of the reason for the effort to get there.

Your solitary comment on Resin, "But possibly it might have been triangular" looked as if it might be an obscure joke, perhaps referring to an imaginary comment I was supposed to have made, but after reskinning Resin, I guess it's in reference to Norm's discussion of The Night Land.

I loved "out of which I enjoyed the hell."

We live in a cause-and-effect physical universe, but what makes you think any analogous principle operates in reincarnation? What makes you think there is reincarnation, other than the feeling that it would be nice if there were?

Nah, my multiples-of-six preference goes back to the same considerations that made me write Konan in hexameter.

SAIUD

What kind of cards do you play Saturday nights?

I wondered briefly why there needed to be a mystery at all, if it's unimportant in a detective story. Then I remembered that technique is most highly developed in the field where there is nothing really to say, TV commercials, and decided it is only because the mystery is unimportant that characterization, mood, dialog., are so highly wrought in the tec field.

I agree that it was the writers' fault, not Nimoy's, that Spock was looking stupid. Whether this is not Spock's fault is an abstruse question. But the writers made him admit at the end that he did an illogical thing in taking the only alternative that offered any chance of escape; which was not impeccable.

SPINNAKER REACH

In the didactic period of American literature, writers stated the moral at the end, perhaps because it seemed a neat way to tie up a composition. Their works are generally better with the moral suppressed. I feel that a similar observation applies to summaries like "but those are hours to remember gratefully."

I'm not pushing "asf" as a substitute for "etc", only using it for variety. I first saw it used by Andrew Lennard of Hungary in The Reader Speaks, and thought of it often when Astanalog was ASF.

Messages running through mathematical concepts can't convey any information about the e-t's, nor anything novel they may want to communicate. I think it might be possible, however, to make statements about the Solar system, such as the number of satellites of each planet, and in connection therewith to introduce terms whose meaning would be clear from context, such as "moves", and thus gradually build up a vocabulary in which a conversation could take place. The other alternative would be to define a set of coordinates and then use it like a TV screen on which to draw pictures.

That there will be 21st Century science, and even 30th Century, does not establish that the UFO phenomenon should be taken seriously. The word from our latest Venus probes indicates, like the Mars fly-by, that the rest of this solar system has few exciting surprises of the kind that make s-f stories. Interstellar explorations, as far as we are able to push them, limited by the speed of light, may render equally barren results. Extensional discoveries may be largely exhausted by the end of the 21st century, and it is possible that intensional investigations, too, will yield virtually all the secrets of the nature of matter and life which we are to have, before that century is out. With this information, we may continue to do new things, but science of the 30th century may be little different in its factual knowledge, and the difference be in technologies, techniques, and the human purposes they serve.

Fick is somewhat guilty of mixed metaphors. "an entertaining buttress for your soaring spirits". Now, i've heard of flying buttresses, but-- "Civilization's fetters are vulnerable to the haunting song of the hermit thrush."

To me, too, the bombing of North Vietnam seems costly to us, in men and materials, out of proportion to any advantage that may derive from it. There may be important considerations we don't know about; the question is whether the greater knowledge of the high command is offset by clouded sight,.

SYNAPSE

It was a fleece, not an oxhide, that the dew fell on or off as Gideon asked. P22, "chang " should be "changing".

ACAPULCO GOLD (Main)

Is this title as meaningful as "Jesus Bug"?

By quoting Hitler, you seem to imply that the opposite of anything a bad man says must be true. A similar technique has been used by right-wingers who quote various devils who were in favor of something progressive. I doubt that your quotation from Eisenhowever, assuming it's accurate, really "gets to the root of things".

Did Dale Tarr attend the Tricon? ' ' Details on your adventure with the insane man would have been of more interest than the data on who all picked you up thereafter. Actually, you're not too bad on pedestrian detail; i'd say there's about 75 percent substance in your narrative. ' ' Who is The Man in your lingo? ' ' Don't monkeys eat bugs? Tarzan's friends were always turning over logs in search of grubs. ' ' Where in Washington is Tolstoy Farm? There used to be an anarchist community on the Peninsula. ' ' The New Left seems to overdramatize itself with terms like "sub-culture" and "underground press" --as if they had to run risks comparable to those of the WW2 underground. But the history of language is a history of weakening meanings. "Brainwashed" and "ghetto" are other terms that are being overused.

Your interlineations continue to show a lot of thought. How about "Con-scription is for slave-holders, not liberators"? If we'd followed that motto in '63, the civil war would have ended in another year.

You say Johnson owed a large part of his enormous victory to promises that he would keep the Vietnam involvement from getting out of hand. But the Tonkin Gulf incident, which is the official beginning of our deeper involvement, occurred in August 1964.

These birth-control methods that depend on keeping the fertilized egg from attaching to the uterine wall raise a difficult theological question: Do zygotes have souls? (How about it, Buz? you're the believer in reincarnation.)

NEHWON REVIEW (Boggs)

One of the annoying characteristics of the young New Leftists is they have no conception of a time other than the present. Referring to a billboard company's blacking out "Oppose the War", Chazin can conclude with the offhand remark, "It finally took a court order to get the phrase restored", without even noticing what a difference it is that one can get a court order against such censorship. ACLU recently won an important victory in limiting civil service questions about prior arrests to those that resulted in convictions; but such progress means nothing to those ignorant of history and seeking only the bad that remains.

The concluding quotations, which Chazin seemed to think involved some conflict or inconsistency, point up the extent to which he projected imagined attitudes onto Alva Rogers. (For my part, I agree with Alva about the handiness of some kitchen appliances, and I also thought Donaho's description of the Human Be In was charming.) Since they're both from the Bay Area, you'd think they would have met, but I've heard that Chazin isn't really an s-f fan, just belongs in some interlocking circles.

VUKAT (Patten)

Nice cover, the warrior and his mount versus the giant.

You spell it "noticable"; but the "-ible" ending has only limited use, and never with "notice". In case of doubt, use the English, which here would be "notice-able". ' ' "smaller than Los Angeles, in terms of urban area". Why not strike "terms of"? ' ' "the Pelzes", or Al Lewis' ... "Pelzes" is plural, and therefore properly forms the possessive with an apostrophe. But Lewis is singular, and chez soi is Lewis's. ' ' "mutually exclusive of each other". Why add "of each other"?

At the Seattle World's Fair, there was quite an exhibit on the library of the future, by Xerox. Has this now come true at Xerox Professional Library Service?

Do you miniaturize your collection when you xerox it? I remember how eye-cracking the reduced comics were in Famous Funnies etc.

"endurance test" seems a more accurate description of the postcard-every-other-mailing waitlist system than "a show of active interest".

Why "Mr." on your sticker?

INSCIENT (Fitch)

Now here we find "the Pelz's", which is not right, and "(or better, vintner's)" --better yet, "vintner's". You know, "I often wonder what the vintners buy ..."
 How did they calculate that libraries should double in size every 13 years?
 I see you were in Japan with the army. Is your hearing loss then service-connected?

"rural living" --Migawd, Chuck Hansen lives in Denver. That's not rural. That royal flush you got on your first poker deal is hard to believe. Lecomte du Nouy would swear that it was evidence of divine intervention; he proves the existence of God by the improbability of such things.

You can retire to, at, or in Santa Cruz, and you can even put the preposition last as far as I am concerned.

As late as The Vicar of Wakefield, the present usage on quotation marks had not jelled. Is this 17th-century Moxton the earliest known rulemaker on punctuation? It's not enough to say that all language is a convention. Number is a convention too, but there are some number systems that are better than others.

Do you number your pages consecutively from the beginning of the year?

As you'll have guessed from my comment on Nehwon Review, I check you to 17 decimals on the weaknesses of the young radicals. Well, make that 16; I'm not sure what you mean by "the rejection of equal treatment for everyone".

Some mailing comments take time to work out. One has an immediate reaction to an outrageous passage in a FAPAazine, scribbles notes in the margin, decides they don't hit the target, churns them around for several days, mentally works them up into beautiful form --and then by stencilcutting time has largely forgotten what they were to be. All the same, I don't think the comments should be stenciled while reading the mailing.

If you don't want to keep the mailing in the chorion in which it came, how about a spring-spine binder such as Facts on File uses? It would hold the contents ready for reading like a book, and avoid the abomination of hole-drilling.

BINX (Grennell)

What's deemp? megrims?

Why save such an easily-compounded and seldom-used symbol as +?

Ellik: I thought there was a third personality type according to Freud or somebody--the genital. I heard of these as roughly corresponding to viscerotonic, cerebrotonic, and somatotonic of constitutional psychology.

When Locke speaks of comparing book hunting in America with boomhunting in England, I'm left wondering what he's going to compare. It's some comfort at the end to find him saying, "what did I intended to write about?"

I don't know whether Albuquerque has Indian restaurants, but during fair time you can get various pueblo delicacies at the Indian Village on the fairgrounds. I like their fried bread.

ANKUS

Does Piser have cards for nonpublishing fans as well as publishers?

"Dian and I are working on Westercon costumes ... and if they come off they should be fun to do". Especially Dian's.

EPIMETHEUS

FANTASY AMATEUR

I don't remember getting that postmailed Celephais, but maybe i did.

That the constitution makes no provision for write-in votes is no impediment to permitting them. They have been allowed from the very beginning.

The rest of this mailing is in the order in which i received it back from the Andersons.

SARANDIPTTY (Grennell and Elik)

"didn't Sam Martinez used to" --there may be no difference to the ear, but it's customary to treat "use" as an infinitive when so used. ' ' The apostrophe replacing e is peculiarly inappropriate in "April-scent'd". It's used in archaic poetry to indicate that for sure there is no extra syllable, e g "belov'd", but your meter called for the syllable there. ' ' Once more, "renowned" has nothing to do with "know", and does not take "k". ' ' "net result" seems pleonastic too.

I didn't know the round in the chamber was undeactivated by a hot hip bath. Would you explain the mechanics of that? ' ' Lee's army was on Seminary Ridge; i suppose your friend wanted his machinegun on Cemetery Ridge. But he wasn't needed there; the conscripts and bounty men were quite sufficient. One should always seek to change history by timetraveling. If a Browning spews a couple hundred shots per bbl does it get so hot the metal expands and jams? How about these presentday rapidfire guns that shoot a thousand or so a minute? Must they shut down after a few seconds? I had pictured the machinegun as the 19th century's nearest approach to the death ray, but that would be as if the ray had to be turned off intermittently. ' ' Is FM limited to line-of-sight? ' ' And what's the question for which the answer is "Chickens Suki-yaki"?

Well, ftl travel isn't really reasonably presented in Star Trek. At least they recognize that something other than rockets is necessary, and call it Warp. But they never get out of the spacetime continuum as they should, and all the time they're violating the constants related to light, light keeps coming to them, showing the stars parting to right and left. ' ' What you say about having to accommodate one's schedule to TV is true, Ron, but technology will have us a solution to that, as it has to so many other problems. When we get tape recorders like Harry is thinking about, we can make the TV show wait until we're ready to watch it. And then, i suspect, we never will get around to watching some of the things we now watch because otherwise we'll miss them permanently. It's something like that enforced periodicity of apa mailings that i mentioned at a Westercon as keeping us active. # I don't believe i'm familiar with any Fzot sonnet. How is it related to the Fzot laws of perversity?

NEHWON REVIEW (Boggs)

It's hard to pin down what's wrong with this, partly because Redd nowhere states, much less defends, his main premise, which seems to be that everything should be tolerated. (This is an extension of the former doctrine of the libertarians, that "Everything should be tolerated that doesn't harm someone else.") Maybe Redd takes the approach of not arguing for his basic position because he thinks people are best persuaded to it by exposure to material in which the premise is tacit. But perhaps he isn't trying to persuade anyone; he may be just talking to himself.

In part 4 Redd does disclaim condoning theft, but he doesn't stick with this; almost immediately he shifts to thoughts of whether the sequel will or won't help Pickering. Apparently his theory is that what fandom did about Pickering's

theft ought to have been determined by what was best for Pickering, and that was for Pickering not to be caught. In his final paragraph Redd says Pickering "should" have refused to open the door when Ackerman and Daugherty came looking for the stolen goods.

A considerable part of his concern seems to result from the thought that Pickering has been persuaded to make an ass of himself. There may or may not have been fault in persuading him to write a confession, but Pickering was already in the habit of being one behind the typewriter. I haven't seen much of his writings, but i do remember a couple of letters which Redd must have missed. Just possibly an admission that he was wrong is a necessary step in ceasing to be an ass; at this distance i wouldn't try to say whether a confession was good or bad for his soul. I wouldn't even try to say, without more information, that going to a California state hospital and getting shock treatments and group therapy is harmful to him, though i realize it's arguable, and no doubt Reagan's economy drive hurt the hospitals.

Redd has another concern in the article, and that is to criticize Ackerman and anyone else who is not totally permissive. This becomes as petty as twice advertising to the exactness of 4e's figure for the value of the stolen stuff--"(ah, that 75¢!)" In part 3 he blames Ackerman for putting temptation in Pickering's way--Redd calls it "provocation"--and suggests that Pickering's fault is at least mitigated by the greatness of the temptation (maybe it wasn't as great as Jean Valjean's to steal bread, but at least it was great enough to move Pickering to the crime). Such excuses seem unlikely to be helpful to Pickering or anyone else that might be inclined to grand larceny.

In part 2 Redd blames Ackerman for taking advantage of Pickering's willingness to work without pay. This implies assumptions which no one familiar with fandom should make. What we do here, we don't do for money. If someone wants to undertake a task like straightening out a collection, it would be an insult to offer pay. Piser has repeatedly offered to straighten out my files in return for having access to them; this happens not to be feasible, but if i could agree to it, i would no more think of paying him than i would think of paying club members for coming over to my house for the monthly meeting.

Redd's apology for Pickering shows the same slipperiness about the assumed facts that was evident on that side of the Breenigan: "maybe he didn't do it, but even if he did ..." Perhaps we can't expect an advocate to set forth separately the arguments applicable under each hypothesis about the facts, but he ought to be clear at least in his own mind about the facts he assumes for a given statement. Redd, however, doesn't seem to know what he thinks.

He doesn't really question the truthfulness of Pickering's confession. No one lied about Degler except Degler. No one lied about Breen except some of his friends. Yet after oblique references to such cases, Redd says someday fandom will choose a victim who will "force the bastards to swallow their own vicious lies." Maybe in Berkeley the weakening of specific meanings has gone so far that "lies" now means anything derogatory.

This infirm grasp of his facts is evident too in Redd's picture of all fandom as mercilessly condemning the successive victims, a picture hard to square with the facts of the Breenigan, and inconsistent with FAPA's fifty-fifty vote on Degler.

Redd should also know his history better than to suggest that Degler was sent to the asylum before he burst upon our scene "perhaps under circumstances similar to Pickering's and for as specious reasons". Claude did not go voluntarily like Pickering, but was sent after a series of incidents including an arson attempt.

WUKAT (Patten)

I'd like to see Forbidden Planet. Saw fragments of it on TV, but for some reason couldn't watch it and see whether the plot was really from Shakespeare. ' ' My feeling about live bands is that they have nothing that recorded music lacks, except that they shout "See, we cost money". They are considerably less complaisant than a phonograph.

I don't believe I have any prozine cover originals, but I have a bacover from Z-D Amazing, Arctic Radio Farm, circa 1939. ' ' Typescripts may not fully reflect the cutting that's been done. If they show what the author produced after being told to cut out 20,000 words, they may be close to the printed version. ' ' I suppose someday the study of variant editions will be done with computers.

What you say about the "chauvinism" of a disease which is described only in the US of the future reminds me of Pal's Time Machine. The conflict between Eloi and Morlock was presented as if that corner of England were all the world. It's a literary device.

Grammatically correct, but stylistically it would have been better to put "really" up near the front, e g "Who really was Abraham the Spokesman of God, broken on the wheel at Nuber?" ' ' When names are the only clue, as in "What did Norman Saylor use to trap Mrs. Gunnison?", it's more a test of simple memory, and less a teaser of associations. ' ' Electronic data retrieval will also supply the answer to questions like "how many stories ... feature a Storm Darroway?"

ESDACYOS

While Esdacyos 14, next to be considered, says it's Asteriskized Pub #153 give or take four or five, #15, at hand, says it's #157 plus-or-minus two or three or thereabouts. How can an approximation become less approximate as time passes? Nothing much else in this issue's margins but nitmarks, so:

ESDACYOS

I timebind, and remember people saying "Yuggoth saves ... more!", but I don't know the origin of that particular remark about Yuggoth.

Re-acquainting myself with the stars is something I've taken up too, since Ruth gave me a telescope. I strongly recommend H A Rey's The Stars, which makes meaningful pictures out of the constellations.

SPIANE (Sneary)

Good Westercon report. ' ' How could Ellik be a dirty young man, when he had just been splashing around in the pool? ' ' I got the impression along about there in your account that the four-day weekend was too long for the conference. ' ' What is the Berkeley Game? ' ' Maybe filmed sword fights should be authentically performed, but photographed in slow motion. ' ' You imply that your previous idea of the best way to raise children was in a barrel. ' ' By questionmarks in parentheses, you ask about the spelling of some words. The chap who did Orpheus was Coc-teau. The Russian movie was Potemkin. The breeches are called Lederhosen, literally leather hose, one of the many instances in which the terminology for clothing has shifted. Aside from those, I will only remark "ryely humorous". ' ' Was there anything incestuous in the original Fall of the House of Usher? ' ' George Spelvin was a character of Westbrook Pegler's.

DAMBALLA

I just wanted to ask whom Sherlock married. Margaret Ann, who has lately read some of the stories, looked at the outline of his life in Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street, and said it erred in having him marry someone who was an actress in one of the adventures.

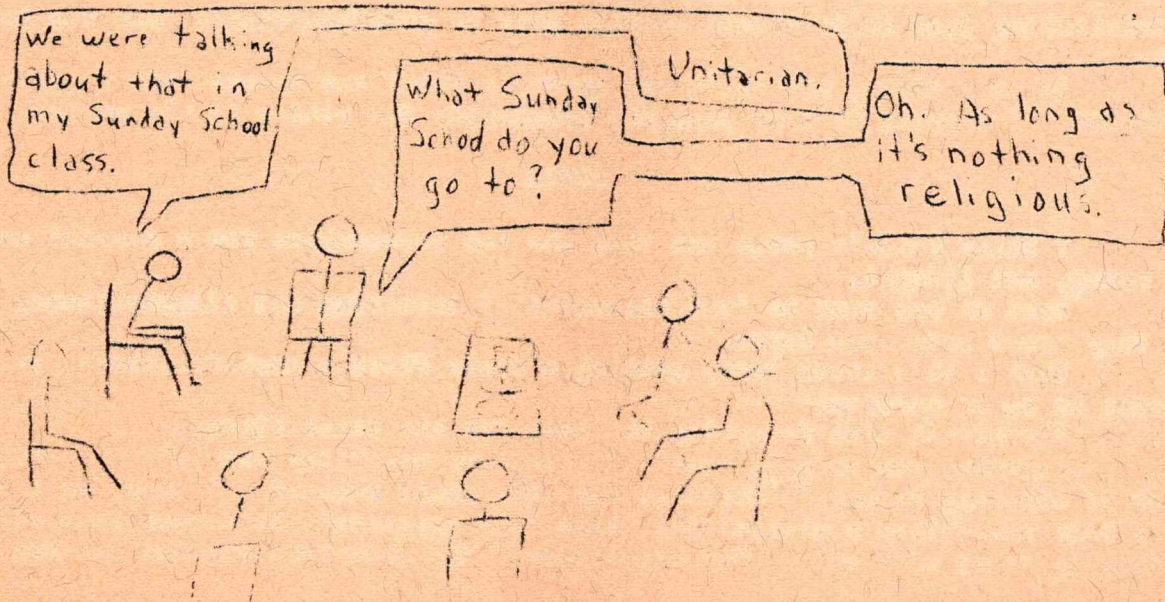
FOGGY DAY (Lichtman)

I was glad to get the Haight-Ashbury story from close up. "You say when the pot arrests proved to be insufficient", but wasn't LSD already outlawed? "Why did the hoods wear bells?"

You say the United States has seen fit to ignore the plight of the poor black and white people within its borders. Ever hear of the War on Poverty? (Go on and argue that it's ineffective; but admit you were wrong in saying "ignore".) "When did a US president ever appear on national media and say, "in so many words", "Nigger, keep your place!"?"

Sometimes you forget how you started a sentence. "nothing has been so journalized about this past year than". "one was undoubtedly about to or in the act of committing". "Having been shown ... it is likely that extensive private development will take place". "we can look forward to a relative domestic peace". There would be less of this if you kept more of the underbrush, such as indignant adjectives, out of your sentences, making it easier to see the whole. "When people put a word in quotemarks or underline it, it is emphasized and ought to be spelled right. When i see "The word ... is 'inadvertant.'" i'm impelled to contradict. Skipping over the neighborhood bears, i find "everything should 'do their thing,'" which sort of depersonalizes the hippies. The college boy said "And there are two r's in 'embarrassed'" to his roommate writing home who had just asked how to spell "financially"; but there is only one r in "harassed", which you spell otherwise several times. Maybe it will be easier to remember that it isn't spelled like "embarrassed" if i remark that lawyers commonly accent the last syllable, though the dictionaries didn't approve this last time i looked.

Speaking of lawyers, i was consulted recently on a case as flagrant as that one you mention. This cop arrested a VW-load of hippies for possession of a deadly weapon, because he saw a mallet on the floor.



CELEPHAIS

There's a misspelling in "He lead the lead lead line". Because plumb is pronounced like led, people assume the present tense can be spelled "lead". 'I wonder if your "don't know haow" is intended to represent the local pronunciation, which i once spelled ha-oo.

Skatekey. I hadn't thought of the daily Peter Rabbit newspaper stories in decades.

I feel pretty sure that the Olaffs drink water, but i don't know whether they keep a zebra or a fox. If "the first house" means the leftmost of an array considered as numbered from left to right, maybe there's information that i didn't use, but i don't see that "first" necessarily means leftmost.

Emrys Evans, wasn't it?

I was asking about non-continental US, so i guess the tip of the Aleutians qualifies as easternmost.

Skilled operators could get 68 copies from jelly hekto. I keep thinking i see the signs of hekto duplication in current fmz, even in this mailing. Exile?

Since Umlauten seldom occur, we can stand the inconvenience of rolling the platen, if it seems necessary, and save that key for something more often used. We can even use ae., in place of umlauting, though i don't like them.

I didn't know there were risque magazines in the '20s. Thought they came with the depression.

I have actually seen the impersonal construction such as "It was noted that" advised in a style manual for scholarly papers--maybe it was theses--on the ground that this was more suitable to a permanent contribution to learning. Abomination.

SMICKERSNEE (Silverberg)

The midline of my stencil seems to make a dollarsign through your name.

In planning to switch into high-yield stock, aren't you embracing false analogies from our agricultural past, tree & fruit, etcetera? If you assume the continuance of capitalism, seems you should also assume the continuance of the record of recent decades, that companies which plow back their earnings instead of distributing them in dividends provide more in growth&earnings than the income stocks.

In your plans, you don't say anything about the income from a career in the cinema. I suppose Rotsler pays you adequately for acting in his movies.

HORIB

I think Helen's point was that the two memberships for a married couple were wrong, not illegal.

What do you mean by "the placement of lettering and illustrations, so that they 'read into' the layout"?

What's this about Terry getting a Space Pilot's certification? Is he learning to be an aeronaut?

I'm afraid i've forgotten the name for the ether flyer.

"another winner a la Ruth's." Yik, why not "like Ruth's"? 'I "this matter of minacing Fapans." Shall we say, the minac menace? 'I And, as i said, when a body underlines a misspelling, like "par exelance", it's just like waving a red flag in front of a bull. Par excellence. Why underline foreign phrases, anyway?

SERCONS BANE

"the hours do not have enough take-home minutes in them" is a felicitous expression.

Democracy can apply to what the concommittee does if the adopted rules say so. If, for example, the adopted rules are that the convention business meeting decides what is done with the profits, any committee that bids for a convention accepts that. And so also if the Hugo rules are intended to be binding.

Ah yes, you're doing a very good job of parenthesis-closing. I noticed a magnificent example on the back page of the previous Sercons Bane, and on the front of this one was a passage where you could easily have had three telescoping parentheses, and you didn't forget to close anything. You must be using the Warner warning bell.

The five stages of emergency response sound like dianetics, and also seem a sound analysis.

Jiant Ant? (Dear non-FAPA reader, if this comment seems cryptic, it is no more so than that to which it refers.)

AYORAMA (Morse)

What is your repro method?

I'm surprised at the \$20 and \$25 for the Consul. I've always figured that a car is worth at least \$25 as scrap, and any car that runs is worth twice that.

Would you run through that Adult Matriculation for us again?

Lieder Lovett and Root sounds very familiar, from college days I guess, but I'm not sure whether it's an English anthology or a translation of Homer.

No, I don't particularly approve of most members being absent from hearing boards' meetings. But the fact that it's common practice refutes the view that the Warren Commission was unusually lax in this.

My interpretation of what "ripped out of context" is applied to is not private. Yours - "failure to adduce everything that might be used in an exegesis of a difficult passage" - is. "You ask 'Why do you believe that I feel that the passage in Matthew is embarrassing'? Because I didn't type it all out again?" Because you never did quote the sentence we were talking about, saying only "(12) As quoted by J.B. Speer, but ending 'He that is able to receive it, let him receive it'." (The rest of you: We're talking about the sentence I quasiquoted, "Some will become eunuchs for the glory of God", which actually ends, "there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake.") The Abingdon Bible Commentary says this must be an interpolation by the evangelist, but no other book I checked at a library supported this avoidance. A century-old Clarke annotated Bible said this was probably a reference to the Essenes, who practiced celibacy. The Greek word means "keepers of the bedchamber", so there is direct reference to castration. Face it, the Jesus of the gospels is not the lusty fellow you'd like him to be. In another embarrassing passage, he speaks of "evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings; these are the things which defile the man:"

If your description of your garden touches off a cycle of responsive comments, it'll be a sign that FAPAns have reached the last stage of Candide's career.

The Latin from Occam looks as if it might say "It is better to be embarrassed by riches than appalled by poverty."

I'm glad to know the source of that story about distilling and redistilling the essence of life. I had heard it as something a king or dictator ordered done, and it seems to me the final distillation was "Even this shall pass away".

"There is no freedom in The Republic, if by Freedom we mean complete freedom to do exactly as one wills at all times without regard to the consequences." If that is what one means by freedom, it doesn't exist anywhere.

How did Plato-Socrates, the skeptic, claim to know all that about the afterlife?

SALUD

At the end of summer i saw a good show which had probably been produced as a pilot, the Hardy Boys in an adventure with a Chinese junk, which they bought to ferry summer vacationists. It was all down to date, dancing to transistor radios and so forth, except the high spirits and unabashed adventure that must have come from the original.

Yes, Margaret Ann is a 12-year-old teenager. I don't remember the statement you attribute to me at her birth. The announcement, as Eney has lately reminded me, was cast in the form of a sequel to 1984.

KIM CHI (Ellington)

Did "gook" originate in Korea? Then what did we call the lesser breeds during World War 2? The British called them Wogs, and i thought Americans had a similar term.

"If you're going to strive for something, why not strive for the best possible thing you can conceive of?" Well, i could give you a practical answer: Because the best possible thing you can conceive of may be impossible and striving for it may accomplish nothing, whereas striving for a more modest goal might succeed. However, it's better to err on the side of idealism. It is a melancholy thing to have given up ideals in order to be practical, only to discover that the ex-ideals are the wave of the future.

If the Food & Drug Administration is spending its manpower on policing drugs for dogs, i think it's misused.

HORIZONS

I thought of you last Easter, Harry, when the congregation at First Methodist Church here didn't straggle to its feet until the choir had run through several Hallelujahs. Apparently few of them had heard the fable about the King's honor to Handel.

The worst thing about interrupting to correct someone is that it stops him from finishing what he was saying, or at best delays the listener in getting the whole. My corrections three months later don't interfere with whatever communication the writer was able to accomplish. Nor do i judge by "particular grammar rules". I do discuss how style may be improved even though it's not wrong, but i rarely tag as incorrect anything that is admissible by a reputable standard. "meaningless typographical perfection" is another of the straw dummies that you prefer to joust with instead of what i actually say.

Before deciding whether we should call the computers' talents intelligence or instinct, let's ask what instinct is. Is sex an instinct?

I hadn't thought about conspicuous consumption being a corporate trait, but it sure seems to be.

"If people use 'however' in places where Sidney would rather see 'but', what are they doing except continuing the process of developing a living language, ..?" Well, for one thing, they are making the language heavy and pretentious. I don't know about your and George Eliot's "prigs", but one of the differences between U and non-U speech is that non-U people employ pretentious polysyllables instead of using short words. This is a reversal of the former progress of the language, which was toward brevity and simplicity.

The day when the waitlist will be used up is so far off that i cannot worry about the stampede that reopening it might occasion.

Does it take you more than a three-day weekend to read the mailing? It does me, but i read it slowly.

The acquisition of new interests in the forties isn't unusual, for people who are still alive. When i was your age i began to indulge an interest in chemistry, physics, and math, for which i'd hardly had time up to then. This summer on family outings I began identifying flowers. After all these years of ignorance of any but the most obvious, it was a pleasure to discover that plants growing wild around me carried those names i associated with England and poetry, yarrow, harebell, cinquefoil, primrose. No mere bird-watcher, i want eventually to fit them into their taxonomic places.

How is the tape for a video recorder different from common recorder tape? I have been somewhat incredulous of the amount of information reputed to be storable on common tape--Form 1040 on a fraction of an inch, for example. I believe magnetic domains are comparable in size to the particles of smoke, which to me would mean that laid end to end they couldn't hold that much information. However (no buts), it may be that with a width to the tape also, a bit can be stored in less space than the length of a domain.

Must bureaucrats be just as bureaucratic in the future?

You speak of few people learning keyboard instruments nowadays. My daughter takes and enjoys piano, played it all Sunday afternoon. But i wonder if she'll feel the time was wasted when she discovers that with a chord organ she could get the same results by pushing two keys at a time.

In Albuquerque, the great problem has been excessive vacant land held by speculators. We hope we are doing something about that now by bringing valuations in line with market value, which should force them to do something with the land. (If there are going to be 100,000 houses in a city, it's better for them to occupy a compact area than be interspersed with vacant blocks.) " The \$800 minimum rental doesn't seem it should be hard to get. We hear about fantastically high rentals in the East, even for slum property. The rule of thumb around here would be \$1,000 annual rent on a \$10,000 property.

EXILE (Wells)

I liked the story, especially the slang "History I". What do educators think they're accomplishing by departing from the standard terms such as civics, hygiene, English, home ec?

The John Birch Society has lately lost ex-Congressman Rousselot. I don't know why. When i saw him in action, he had mastered the McCarthy techniques.

I don't like the "is" of identity in "Education is learning to understand the implications of one's beliefs." One of the things you may get from education is understanding the implications of your beliefs.

SAMBO (Martinez)

Dave's cover looks as if it might have been inspired by the dragon's teeth in the Golden Fleece film recently telecast. Those special effects were credited to Ray Harryhausen, whose named used to appear in Imagination ca 1939, as an LASFL member i believe.

There's a scientific data center in Albuquerque one of whose purposes, the director explained, was to keep government contractors from reinventing the wheel more than twice a year. " I thought the distinctive feature of KWIC was that it gave the passage in which the search word appeared. You can cut the relevancy problem way down by giving the key-word in context. " I enjoyed the article.

The Social Security example, which i suppose was copied from some conservative publication, overlooks a great deal about Social Security, including the insurance aspect. The following is a few years old, as shown by the \$4800 top bracket, but it is still relevant:

A man at 35 would have to save nearly \$500 per year for 30 years at 4 percent to get the annuity at 65 that would provide the benefits social security gave him and his wife at \$4800 maximum. At 45, he would have to put away nearly \$1,000 per year. For \$216 per year, Social Security provided the man earning \$4800 with protection that would cost him nearly \$500 per year if he started at age 35, nearly twice that if he started at age 45. This bargain is partly because the social security tax starts on workers before they reach 35, and partly because there is no commission for insurance salesmen.

GODOT (Deckinger)

You miss the point concerning Pickering, the great principle established in the Breen case: If it hasn't been proved in court, we're supposed to pretend that it didn't happen.

A road with a single lane in each direction is still considered a highway. I believe Alcan is mostly like this, and not even paved. Many state and US highways that are not superhighways are still the width they were built, two lanes.

What ever happened to Richard Vaughan after he wrote Exile of the Skies? There was a novel outstanding for its time, and the Day index doesn't indicate a thing from his pen thereafter, and only one story before.

The Monkees don't seem to be kaput around here. The kids were listening to them this evening.

There are various postmailings, some of which i haven't read much of. Dick Schultz, i see your message to FAPAns is "You comment or this is it, baby." But what if one doesn't watch (dare i say it? doesn't like) The Avengers?

"As the great thout and its rider hurtled (harmlessly) past, he/Carthoris swung his

"All moral laws, I wish to shew, are merely statements that certain kinds of actions will have good effects. The very opposite of this view has been generally prevalent in Ethics. 'The right' and 'the useful' have been supposed to be at least capable of conflicting with one another, and, at all events, to be essentially distinct. It has been characteristic of a certain school of moralists, as of moral common sense, to declare that the end will never justify the means. What I wish first to point out is that 'right' does and can mean nothing but 'cause of a good result,' and is thus identical with 'useful': whence it follows that the end always will justify the means, and that no action which is not justified by its results can be right."

Moore, quoted in Situation Ethics

longsword in a mighty cut.that clove the great carcass in twain."

The WESCON was held 23-26 August in the Sports Arena and Hollywood Park, LA. It's the Western Electronic Society and Convention.

"Like a razor too it was massy and heavy, and the whole hissed as it swung through the air."

SE DICE

Extracts from three letters from Norm Metcalf:

To give an answer to your question on page 8 of the Synapse for FAPA 118 regarding claiming mineral rights in the Persian gulf here is a quote from The Persian Gulf In the Twentieth Century by John Marlowe, ...

In 1945 the U.S. Government advanced the claim that riparian States should have sovereignty over mineral deposits underlying the 'continental shelf' or shallow area of sea lying off their coasts. Applied to the Persian Gulf this meant that riparian States could claim sovereignty outwards from their coasts to a line midway between the Iranian and Arabian shores. ... This led to an interesting piece of litigation over the Qatar continental shelf, a concession for the exploration and exploitation of which was awarded by the Sheikh, in 1949, to the Superior Oil Company. His right to do this was challenged by the mainland concessionaires ... As a result of arbitration proceedings the Superior concession was upheld and the rights of the mainland concessionaire held to extend to the three-mile limit only. ... Later, continental shelf concessions were awarded ... by King Saud and the Sheikh of Kuwait over the continental shelf of the Neutral Zone; ... Next question: What's the nature of the Neutral Zone?

I imagine what the U.S. Government was up to was protecting the investment the oil companies had in the Gulf of Mexico, where they were drilling considerably beyond the three-mile limit. Here in California I don't think there is any area of the continental shelf beyond the three-mile limit, particularly one producing oil. Is that independent country someone's planning to build out there beyond the continental shelf?

... the average person does consider himself as having an interesting time, romantic (in the old sense) if you will. You couldn't have been reading FAPA mailings for thirty years without having it displayed before you time and time again. ...

And to answer your questions to Jacobs: the ham definition of country includes not only sovereign states but separate portions of sovereign states separated by other sovereign states (thus East and West Pakistan are separate countries) How about some enclaves and exclaves between France and Spain? and portions of sovereign states separated only by international waters (thus Hawaii is another country), as long as the distance of separation is seventy-five miles or more. As to how many countries there are by these definitions it's in excess of 300. ...

... As for the question of how far from low tide does sovereignty extend I know why your United Nations convention didn't present the answer. There is no answer. ... The U.S.S.R. has been claiming twelve miles, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile have claimed two-hundred miles and Ecuador and Peru have been quite gung-ho about enforcing this claim. ...

As for the specific instance of the Strait of Tiran ... I seem to recall that the newspapers mentioned that the navigable channel was within one mile of the Egyptian shore, and since the least that any nation claims is three miles.... However, there's another even more important principle applicable. No nation is allowed to block access to another nation because it controls straits ... leading to ports of another nation. ... But in time of war all of these treaties and principles mean little. And officially there has been war between Israel and the Arabs since 1948.

Roy Tackett:

Concerning laws of robotics and the like, I find it particularly amusing that Asimov's three laws (actually, as with most everything else worthwhile in stf, they were handed down by John W. Ghod) are now coming under attack from the, ah, well, what is the term I want? I dislike saying "bleeding hearts" even though it is a convenient label readily understood. But it is fascinating to see that a certain segment of fandom is now prepared to carry the fight for equal rights to the point where they are demanding "freedom now" for machines--and for machines that don't even exist at that. I wonder if we can now expect sit-ins and all the rest? Equal rights for adding machines. A big voter registration drive among voltmeters. Equal housing for pinball machines. Ah, the wonder of it all. ...

I find it interesting that are more or less in agreement with the idea of putting the unskilled unemployed to work on police details ("police" used here in the sense of cleaning up rather than law enforcement). I think a great deal could be accomplished by a program of this sort. Not only would it give them something to do it would also solve the problem of cleaning up the litter which threatens to bury us all. I suppose that I am more of a believer in the New Deal than in the Great Society and would prefer to see the WPA substituted for many of today's welfare programs. The WPA at least accomplished something for the benefit of the nation as a whole. /There was a dole in the New Deal, and the War on Poverty includes some work projects. Recently i noticed a roadside park on the Jemez river built by a pueblo project funded from OEO. A few years before we had pulled off the highway near the same spot to picnic by the river, and were revolted by the junk and garbage dumped there.7

Stories involving time travel are fantasy, not science-fiction, inasmuch as time travel is an impossibility. /Prove it.7

Is it true that Xerox machines keep a secret microfilm of everything they reproduce?

"We are never completely contemporaneous with our present. History advances in disguise; it appears on the stage wearing the mask of the preceding scene, and we tend to lose the meaning of the play. Each time the curtain rises, continuity has to be re-established. The blame, of course, is not history's but lies in our vision, encumbered with memory and images learned in the past. We see the past superimposed on the present, even when the present is a revolution." Regis Debray

"This war might push me out of the news."

"The fan-magazine public is mostly women and teen-age girls. ... Few have gone beyond high school. They have more leisure in summer, and dozens of one-shot publications and annualse are released then to supplement their regular diet of monthly and bi-monthly issues." 31 May 67 WSJ

Stamp Out Counterfeit Coins

"Science fiction is one method of universalizing, Lerner said. He read Macbeth's 'Bedtime Story,' a haunting account of the accidental murder of the last human being by a band of missionary-soldiers from another world." NYTBR i bleev

"Your Baja's too short."

WIEDERGRASBLITZKRIEGZUFÜHREN¹⁹

Recently i attacked the Bermuda grass in my front lawn. As i worked, the pattern of things seemed to resemble something else. Presently i was wondering that the un-Americans had not used this as an analogy for their conception of the Communist menace.

In the first place, i didn't want to believe there was any Bermuda grass in the lawn. The previous winter we had carried out a surgical operation intended to remove it along with the sod wherever it occurred, and it was most easily identified in winter. Indeed, that was the reason we didn't want Bermuda grass; in summer it looked much like any other grass, but in the winter, when we needed greenery, it changed color. My wife pointed out tufts with jointed branching among the summer-green and said this was Bermuda grass. I wasn't convinced, but i couldn't gainsay the runners that extended out onto the sidewalk. My extirpation action began with these.

Our Bermuda problem comes from a neighbor who tolerates this kind of grass. Therefore it was to be expected mostly near the border, and along the sidewalk, where conditions are poor for the best kind of grass. As i began to look for more of it farther into the lawn, however, it was hard to believe that none of it was indigenous. But one blot of the stuff was usually connected with another by runners, and so it was quite possible that all of it was due to foreign influence.

I traced the runners, and it was amazing how far the blight extended into the lawn. Grass which at first i assumed was the rye, fescue, etc, that we wanted, turned out to be Bermuda; the connections with other cells betrayed it. Sometimes whole areas proved to be entirely Bermudan. Even when there were not runners from known spots of Bermuda, i could frequently detect it by running my fingers around deep in the sod, catching them on runners. Only Bermuda has this method of reproduction.

The jointed branching Ruth had pointed out to me was another means of identification, but i presently began to suspect that i was seeing this where it did not exist, and grubbing up innocent grass. Better to take no chances, however; it was only grass, not people.

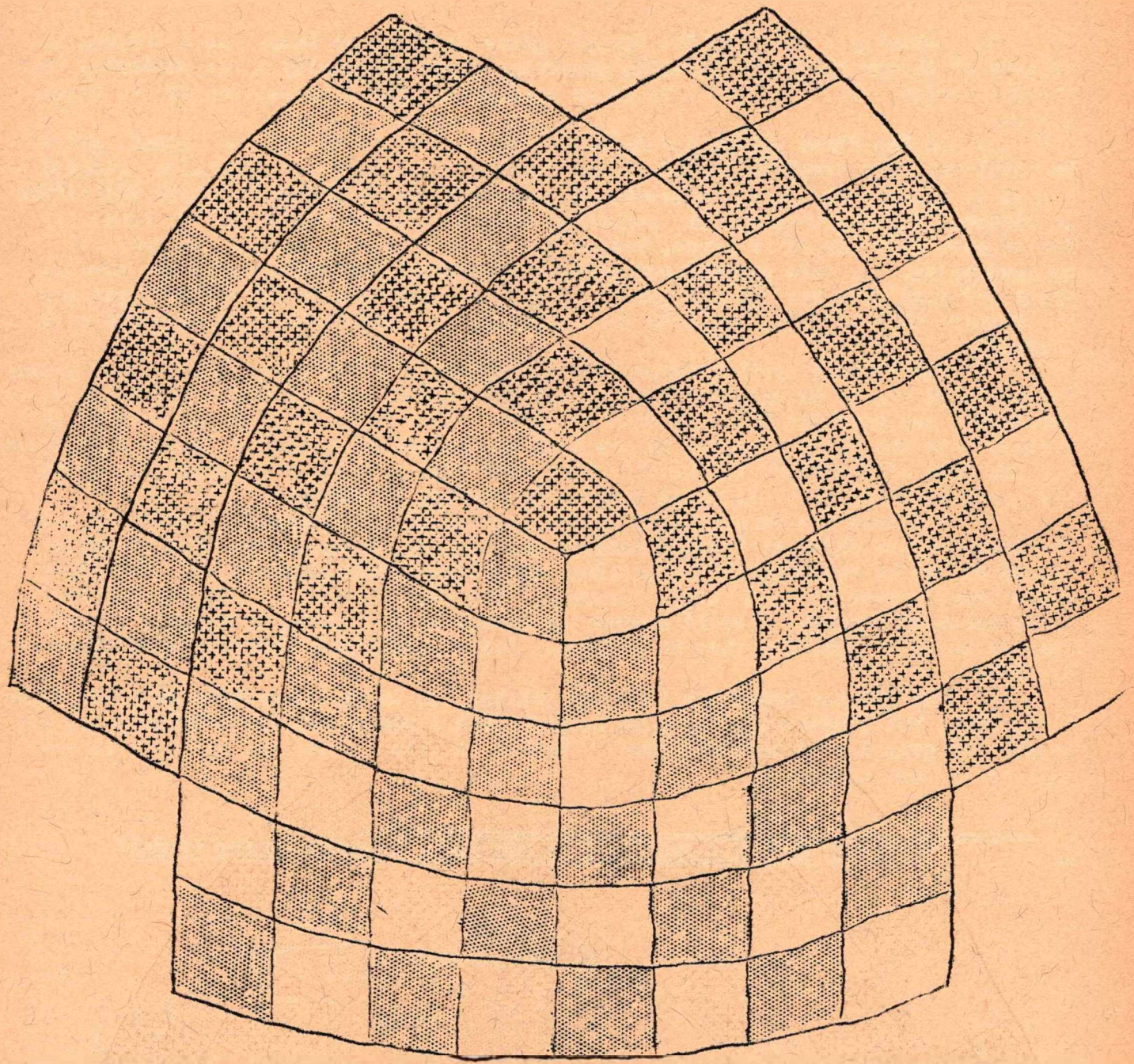
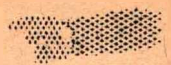
"Eddie B. Speer, I repeat, I am not going to speak to you again!"





Black

Red



TRICOLOR CHESS

(A game for three persons)

The object of the game is to win by checkmating one or both of the other players.

Rules of the game are the same as in two-man chess wherever possible, with each player having a regular set of chessmen.

The following rules seem necessary or desirable with the tricolor board for the movement of each of the different pieces. Play proceeds from white to red to black.

Pawns: Since each "file" has 12 spaces instead of the usual 8, a pawn has to have 4 more moves to "queen". When a pawn is at Q-6 or K-6 it can only capture on one side instead of the usual two. At the start rook pawns are in the capture position and may be exchanged.

Rooks: No changes.

Knights: No changes (but be careful in the center).

Bishops: No changes (bishops must always remain on the same color they started on), however "bishops wild" may be played for a change. Then bishops may move diagonally into all three playing areas of the board instead of just two. With bishops wild it is possible to get both bishops on squares of the same color.

Queen: The queen can move either like a rook or a "wild bishop" To prevent your two opponents from jeopardizing both your king and queen at the same time the queen is given "immunity" from attack whenever your king is in check. If this rule is omitted the game is called "sudden death".

King: The king moves and castling are unchanged. The king is in checkmate only when it is his turn and he is in check and cannot escape to another square which is not under threat from either opponent. The king is "immune" to check from one opponent whenever the other opponent has the queen in jeopardy.

A short game ends with the first checkmate and the win (1 point) goes to the player who first checked the king for the last time, with the other player getting a draw ($\frac{1}{2}$ point) whether or not his pieces helped in the mate.

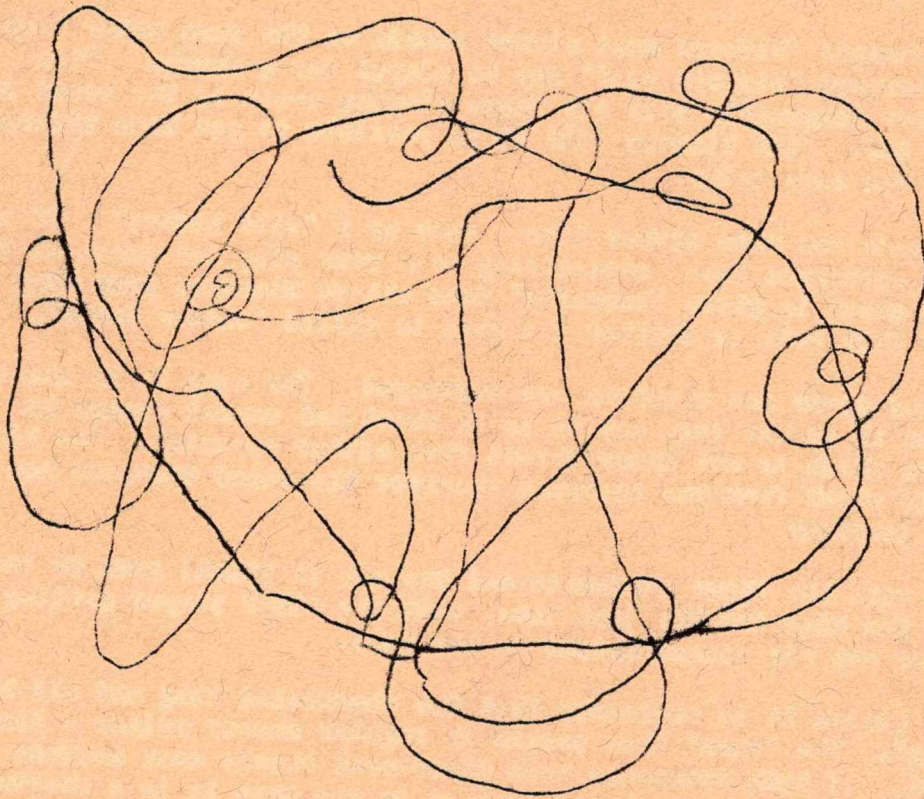
For a game to the finish it is necessary that the checkmated king and all his men be removed that "turn". The "turn" then passes in regular manner unless a discovered check is performed. If both opponents have discovered checks each defends in turn. If a discovered check cannot be defended against in one move it is a checkmate. The final winner gets another point, giving him either $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2, depending on who got the first mate.

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THE FRUG

Spin your pardner while You dance.
Make a loop and then Prance.
S your loop, then make a line.
Bless your loop, it looks divine.
Spoil your loop with a Practice beat.
Hate the dance, then rest your feet.

Cross your lines, and Back to hate.
Boss your nines, it's something you ate.
The dance is over, Now back to pigs.
The prance is over, It's something bliss
Ruin the blueprints, You are a goon.
Ruin the diagram and Take off for the moon.



Ed Speer