THE 15

This is THE #15, composed by Richard Harter at 5 Chauncy St. #2, Cambridge MA 02138, with the invaluable assistance of Alphonse, who is responsible for typoes, spelling errors, and grammatical erratta. Mimeography is by the ever intrepid PelzPress.

Comments on 1-353

TOC - Grrmmph!

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Dan Goodman - Marsha Elkin is in large part responsible both for the existence of APA:NESFA and for there being contributors from the Boston area. Also there are a number of cross connections between LA and Boston. For example Suford (Susan Lewis) is from LA as is Mark Swanson. Fuzzy Pink was a MITSFS and NESFA member. Marsha has extensive contacts on the west coast. Etc.

Tony Lewis (who has a certain amount of iconoclasm) has been heard to express the opinion that the Fan Hugos should be abolished on the grounds that they are the Nebulas of fandom. He goes on to point out that the Nebulas are given by the writers to the writers with all sorts of consequent in-group jockeying and factionalism, whereas the pro Hugos are more broadly and independently based. All of which leads to the interesting idea that perhaps both the Fan Hugos and the Nebulas should be abolished and that SFWA should award the fan Hugos instead.

Fuzzy - Bill Rosenfeld sends his regards and wishes you to know that he now has a blue Fiat - he explained that since you never did give him a ride in your sports car he had to go out and get one himself.

Is the Barbara Cohen mentioned by Bruce the sister of Mike Cohen of MIT or is it someone else of the same name?

It occurs to me to wonder if Bob Tove would talk to you now that you're married and you've changed your name. (For those who are wondering Bob Tove was a character at MIT who stopped talking to Fuzzy on the grounds that he was talking to too many people and that he had to cut the list. There was nothing personal, he explained, it was simply that he was cutting back from the end of the alphabet and Fuzzy's name started with a W.)

Sheila Stephens - Do you have to use green ink on green paper?

Jay Freeman (And Fuzzy) - I haven't given too much thought recently about the fan owned computer(s). However here are some thoughts: Presumably it would be owned jointly. If the ownership is national rather than regional there is the problem of data lines and terminals. I hear that ASR-33 teletypes are now at \$1300 or some such which is a bit much. However I also hear that there is a an inexpensive audio phone hookup which is considerably cheaper than a data phone and that a portable TV can be cheaply modified to act as a satisfactory terminal (in fact there is a Japanese company that modifies Sony's to be just that.) Terminal costs and phone line costs seem like the biggest bugaboo at present.

The mainframe is less of a problem. One can buy a mini-computer for the cost of a new car and the prices are still dropping. (Neiman-Marcus offers a small computer "for the home" complete with meal planning programs.) The real question here is how much are the joint purchasers willing to put up and what kind of machine do they want.

Another problem is simply where do you put the blasted thing? At the present time I don't have any place for one. If LASFS does get its club house in a couple of years that would probably be an ideal place for it.

As I said before I don't think it is really practical right now but I do think that it could be done in a couple of years. I haaven't kicked the idea around here too much but I am going to see if I can stire up some interest. In the meantime I am going to think about it a bit more and make some inquiries. And I will appreciate hearing any comments and suggestions. Who, besides Fuzzy and Jay (and probably Friz) might be interested in becoming part owner of a computer?

Bruce: This gets complicated. I ran electros for LA Con. However I am going to pick up the tab (nine bucks) because I figure I owe you for mimeography and postage. Since LA Con owed NSFA the money I guess LA Con owes you the money and I owe NESFA the money.

How are the Cherpin wines compared to the better small California vinyards. We get wines from a number of small California wineries, among them being Heitz, Ridge, Sonoma, Freemark Abbey, Chappellet, and Spring Mountain - also Mayacomas and Schramsberg.

Marsha harvested a mushroom crop the other day. Yessirree Bob! Out of two mushroom gardens which she was given for Christmas she harvested a mushroom (which, however, was very big.) She is planning to make stuffed mushroom tomorrow. Fortunately it looks like a full sized crop will be coming up in about three days.

Maggie - I asked you because I don't know the answer! However I guess I will have to work it out and publish an answer next week.

Larry Nielson - Your answer is reminiscent of the discussion of various types of liars in Martin Gardner's column some time back. Your answer is quite correct if the Liars are attempting maximum deceit, but it was specified that they were perfect logicians. (Although, come to think of it, nothing was said about their being logical liars rather than deceitful liars.)

The conventional answer to the problem of asking three questions is to ask one of them which of the remaining two is the more truthful.

At a recent con (Philcon it must have been) a number of NESFA members were whooping it up for the Left Handed Liberation Front with such slogans as Left On! and Get Righty! Speeches were made bemoaning the position of lefties as one of the suppressed minority groups. Examples of dextrous chauvinism in the language were pointed out such as words like sinister and left handed compliment. Subtle (and not so subtle) discriminations against Lefties such as pay telephones (to say nothing of writing) were listed. The whole thing ended in a chorus of Left On's as everybody raised a clenched left fist.