
Issued as a post-mailing to the 100th FAPA Mailing by John & Bjo Trimble, 5734 Parapet Street, Long Beach 8, California. Published on the LASFS Rex-Rotary, 16 August 1962.

A FAIR TRIAL BEFORE THE HANGING

In the Silver Centennial Mailing of this venerable organization, Redd Boggs entered a magazine entitled Cockatrice #1. Within this impeccably reproduced magazine, under the heading "The Theory and Practice of Chicken", Redd proceeded to rightfully criticize the action of this member as Secretary-Treasurer in dropping one Ed Martin from FAPA.

However, Redd went on to rather viciously dissect the Trimbles and all of Southern CalifAPAdom for being underhanded, incompetent rascals of the first order.

And to this we object. Our Watchful Mr Boggs has made what I hope to prove is a hasty decision.

To go back to the beginning, we had all but assembled the 97th FAPA mailing, and I checked Bruce's listing of the zines off against the list I'd made of members needing credit in that mailing in order to remain in FAPA. Ed Martin's required material was conspicuously missing from the assembled material. Bruce Pelz went into the kitchen where the beer and poker session was going full blast to ask Burbee if he had made sure that all the zines were present. Burbee allowed as how he had, and Bruce mentioned that Martin had nothing in the mailing.

"Who'd you say?" Burbee asked, "I'm sure that I had something here by a fella named Martin." He wandered into the den and searched the closet shelves, coming down with a sloppy pile of stapled sheets. We took the magazine in the living room where the mailing had been collated and added it to the stacks (you'll notice that Martin's magazine is listed as an afterthought in the contents listing in the FA; this is the reason).

A short time later, I was in the den running off some of the FA on the LASFSRex, when someone wandered in to exclaim over the "crud" Martin had put forth. "Is this stuff mailable?" someone asked. I skimmed the magazine and found it to be full of stale, smutty anecdotes and stories. "I'm not the one to make any decision on mailability," I said, "see what Burbee thinks." Burbee seemed to think the thing mailable, and went back to his poker and beer.

In the course of the afternoon and evening, several other members wandered over to ask if Martin would be getting credit for Grotesque. I said that I hadn't read it yet, but indicated that if someone else would mimeograph for a while, I'd take a break to really read it. I did read it, and found my prior opinion to be justified; I'd heard most of these oblique stories in years gone by...in the service, in bars, while cabbing in LA, etc.

Feeling, however, that I shouldn't be the sole judge of this, I asked most of the other members present -- those not drunk or playing poker -- to read the magazine and give me their opinions as to

the originality of the material therein.

During this time, Bruce said that he'd seen the cover of Grotesque in his collection of old fanzines...on one of Martin's mags circulated during his last incarnation in FAPA. Jack immediately suggested that if this were true, Martin only had 7 1/2 pages, and was therefore out. Both Bruce and I pointed out that if Martin had published the magazine, he had over eight pages, reprint cover or no.

I asked the various members assembled their opinions on the material in Grotesque now that they'd read it, and got a pretty definite backing of my own feelings on the matter; Martin had simply cribbed some old "Mens Room" stories and typed them up for publication. Fudging it like crazy was what seemed to be the consensus of opinion on Martin's effort.

By this time, Burbee had finished alternating between the poker game and the typer, stencilling the second page of the FA; I finished mimeographing, and we wrapped it up, mistaken ballot and all. I still hadn't made up my mind on Martin.

A couple of weeks later, however, I did make my decision. Let me emphasize that singular pronoun: I made all the decisions and did the work in connection with our holding of the Sec-Treas position. Bjo was against my taking on the job in the first place (and in light of what's happened, I wish I did let her do my thinking for me sometimes), and would have nothing to do with carrying out the duties thereof.

At any rate, I decided that if half a dozen people in one room had heard most of the stories in Martin's magazine before, that this material violated both the spirit and letter of the sections of the FAPA Constitution which deal with activity. And so I wrote him to say that he'd been dropped. In reminding him of the Constitutional means available to nullify this decision (... "suggest you try section 3.3 or 3.5 of the constitution..."), I neglected to remind him that he could contest my decision to the Vice-President...but this was an honest, if ignominious **oversight**.

And nothing was heard from Martin. So, I thought, he must not have been too keen on holding the membership after all. But then, in a letter from Evans, there was a mention of "Martin's Open Letter". What open letter? I asked Bruce if he'd received anything from Martin, and got a negative. Same with Jack Harness, EdCo, Lee Jacobs ...Burbee...Perdue.... But Rick Sneary had received a copy; apparently the only FAPA in the Southern California area to get one. I stopped by Rick's one day and he let me read Martin's sheet. "Well," I said, "I wonder how Marion and Bill feel about being made a part of the "California Clique"?"

Mailing #98 came and went, followed by Ted White's Null F claiming foul in the Martin case, among other things. Ron Ellik and I got together to discuss the matter; Ron's having formerly held both the Sec-Treas and Veep positions seemed to make him a logical advisor in the Martin thing, and he'd been a principal in the fraudulent vote fiasco which White was also protesting.

Ron felt that I was probably right about Martin's material, but that if I couldn't cite chapter and verse to prove it, I didn't have much of a position as far as the letter of the law went.

I agreed, and we published Second of a Series, Revealing All.

We both agreed, however, that the matter was now in the province of the Vice-President, and that there was no provision in the Constitution for any kind of action on the part of the Sec-Treas further than what I'd already done. The Boy Scouts, however, in New York and Seattle, are and were not cognizant of this fact, it would seem, and Mr Boggs' detestation of the noble Constitution is famed throughout the organization.

THE DEFENSE RESTS...AFTER A FASHION

I protest that I did not "pull an illegal and manifestly unfair piece of hanky-panky". I did make a mistaken judgement for which I am fully willing to take the blame. I'm not willing to have my hide nailed to Boggs' floor because of it. Nor do I think it fair for everyone in Southern California to be condemned for it.

I would like to suggest that circulation of an open letter such as Martin's could hardly be called a denial of the charge, or really a protest, since it would seem to have only been circulated to part of the membership at the eleventh hour...a good month and some after the events it is purported to protest took place.

The veracity of the reporting of one Jack Harness has never been of the highest repute; quite frequently his view of events and people has been such as to make a man gasp and wonder if he ought to have his eyes and hearing checked. That is not to say that Jack would lie...far from it; but Jack does see and remember things in a way that is quite different from that of mere mortals.

I find it hard to believe that Boggs really means that line about "the small California group that allows Bjo to do their not-thinking for them". And if he does, are we allowed to apply this reasoning to other groups that act together, so that everyone who supports the motion to raise the number of votes required for the "blackball" is allowing MZB or Eney to do their not-thinking for them? Or that the people Bubby mentions as his "Clean Slate" are allowing Busby to do their not-thinking for them?

As for the "proposal to blackball waiting-lister Walter Breen", I'm afraid that you will find that this was sprung on the Califans in attendance at the Seacon by FAPAn from the East Coast. No matter what support it may or may not have recieved from CaliFAPAns, we/they did not originate the proposal, nor did we/they actively try to carry out the proposal. "Right now no one takes any sort of bledit [sic] for the rumour, but it did circulate. It circulated to me, and the reasons for action seemed good enough at the time that I agreed to go along. Shortly thereafter, I heard reasons against the action which were even better, and I changed what passes for my mind." -- Bruce Pelz, in ANKUS #3, FAPA 98, Feb 1962.

Let's confine our discussion to the facts, and let the smears come from people of lesser mein, eh Redd Boggs?

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LAST OF A SERIES #1

from: John & Bjo Trimble
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u s of a

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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