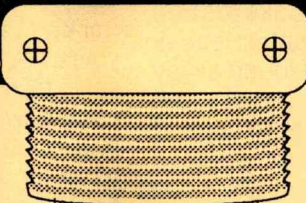


Union St

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RICHARD RUSSELL ☪

[SC] I would not normally spend a lot of time on a one page minac. You, however, have a gift for generating controversy and you're APA Business section is proof.

Motion#1—I see no point in assigning a new name to the APA's operating procedures. They already have a name, The Official Business Page, which may not sound as grand as Constitution, but does specify where these rules are located in the APA. I usually prefer practical over fancy.

Motion#2—I would vote No on this proposal. You must agree, Dick, that contributors are not always able to submit an APA contribution every month for all sorts of good reasons other than apathy over a proposed motion. You are suggesting that APA members be deprived of a vote simply because they were unable to get a contribution in when necessary. That is simply not always possible. Verbal votes on motions should be permitted.

This motion would also change the assumption that people who don't vote, count as a No. I feel the current policy is correct. Any change mandated by the membership should need to be so clearly needed and desired by a majority that they have to ratify it with a Yes vote. Those members who don't vote or abstain should be assumed to be satisfied with the status quo. Their vote should count as No simply because they don't feel things need to be changed strongly enough to vote Yes.

Motion#3—I also oppose this motion. It is possible that, in the past, motions have not had as much discussion in the APA as they should have had before the vote. You have already come up with a workable solution by "announcing" your motions ahead of time and allowing time for discussion before the vote. The system you are suggesting would result in a great deal of work keeping track of peoples' votes and changes. This would probably fall on the OE, who has plenty to keep him busy as it is. If verbal votes are allowed, it would not be necessary to tabulate votes for three months. So, as I see it, it is not necessary to change any of the rules.

Naturally, I only account for half a vote. Jeanne and I have not settled a system for disputes over motions, yet. Should Jeanne choose to disagree with me, we will present a resolution to our problem next month. Including an account of bruises, scratches and blood-letting experienced during negotiations.

[JG] No fun this month, we both agree.

I'm of the "less apa government is better apa government" persuasion. In my opinion, the only time new rules

should be instituted is at times when—without those rules—apa members are caused problems, outside their own control, which seriously endanger their ability to function in the apa. Secondly, I view OE'ship as a potentially onerous job, with few perks and many responsibilities. I firmly believe that the OE's perks, few as they are, should be guarded carefully in order to avoid losing the OE. In light of those two personal opinions, I cast a vote against all three of your motions.

Motion #1—Naming operating procedures page, or for that matter, any aspect of OE page design or decoration or organization falls more in the domain of OE perc than it does as a potential serious problem area for apa members. Let the OEs do what they want to do here, I say.

Motion #2—A primary perk of being OE of Turboapa is that the OE's friends have voted him into office and they trust the OE (to be god). If the OE says someone gave him a verbal vote, I think it would be a signal of distrust if we adopted a rule that assumes that he might lie about having received those votes. But more importantly, under the less government = better apa theory, I prefer with Scott, the assumption that no vote = no new rule. If the proposed rule is perceived as really necessary and good, people will vote for it. No rule should pass only out of apathy.

Motion #3—A three month voting period would simply mean more bureaucracy and work for the OE, for no good reason as far as I can see. I like your own elegant solution to the problem of lead time for motion discussion. You simply announced that you will be proposing the motions next time. It works. So why fix it? Again, I'll vote no for this too.

VIJAY BOWEN ☪

[SC] Sorry I drove you nuts with "alot". Looking over our issue last month, I see I did it again several times. I will stop it. It is a bad habit I picked up somewhere, have been doing it for years and need to correct. I'm sure I have more bad writing habits and hope people point them out to me. That is one of the reasons I started contributing.

Your APA was Jeanne and my favorite contribution for last month. Very thoughtful comments to many people. Very readable, and personal. I don't know how you manage to keep up this level of activity for five apas in addition to the long hours you spend on the job. The practice really shows in the quality of your APA.

[JG] No, actually I never have gotten used to wearing glasses. That's one of those distracting body-attachments that was never a pleasant sensation, but one that I have had to accept, since I've been practically blind since I was seven years old. ("What chart, where?") I've always hated the weight of the bridges on my nose, though plastic lenses improved the situation considerably, and disliked the way they restrict my range of vision and make me feel clumsy at times. Once I purchased a pair of contact lenses when my optometrist announced that they'd found a way to correct for severe astigmatism with plastic lenses, but that was even worse, and I swallowed hard and dropped those lenses (and \$250) in the wastebasket about a month later. I do not willingly hang things on my body and suspect that I could adapt quite comfortably to a nudist culture. Like Diane, I put a high priority on comfortable clothing.

PETE WINZ ♣

[SC] It can be tough to watch people get the axe, and be spared yourself. At least your boss sounds like a human being. I remember one time I was given a layoff notice in a fucked up fashion. I was working as a correctional officer and five of us who were new were slated to be laid off for an indefinite period. We all worked evenings or nights and were scheduled to work over the weekend. Our gutless Personnel Director on Friday gave the layoff notices to the evening shift supervisor to pass on to us and then he went home for the weekend. We were told as we came in to work Friday afternoon and night. The supervisor was stuck giving us the bad news without being able to answer any questions or offer alternatives. I think we only had about a week before the notice was to take effect so we worked through the weekend, getting very stressed out, until that asshole came back on Monday to discuss alternatives. It can make a big difference how one dispenses bad news.

Jeanne and I haven't been to an ICON since we met at one five years ago. I suppose we should go back for old-times-sake, but I'm afraid that would be the only attraction the con would have for us. Alternative reality is sometimes interesting to think about, but I hate to think where I would be now if Spike hadn't invited me to ICON that Saturday night or if I had had to work that night.

Ret. your comment to Colin H. I thought both you and Vijay were quite restrained. And on target.

[JG] It's an understatement to say that I agree with your comment about how crucial a catalyst fandom has been in your life. It would be unlikely that I'd be a (paid) artist right now. Fandom has handed me a lot more career options than my college education did. And, as Scott mentioned, we would probably not have met, or if we had eventually met, we would not have met at such a crucial time. Both of us were ready to make big changes in our life when I decided to take in ICon (a last-minute decision because I hadn't gone to worldcon that year), and any other time in our lives we would probably not have been in positions to make the commitments we suddenly made to one another five years ago. I attribute all sorts of other good things—and no really bad things—to fandom, including a good chunk of my self-confidence, skills, and a wonderfully wide-ranging circle of friends. That was the theme of my Corflu speech last year, which by the way,

has been published in the most recent issue of *Pulp*.

DIANE MARTIN ♣

[SC] I have been enjoying reading about everyone's' jobs. It encourages me to write about mine, although I haven't quite decided how to start. It is sort of strangely reassuring to discover that other people have job hassles besides me. Although, frankly, I think MY work problems dwarf any of the rest of yours.

If you are searching for feedback from the rest of us about staying in the APA, I want to encourage you to stay. I have never found your writing to be boring or irrelevant. You have a talent for short, but wise and pointed, comments. I always look forward to your APA. We need your common sense and plain speaking. Don't worry about length. It is clear that you read everything and give thoughtful feedback. Jeanne and I have arbitrarily decided to try to limit ourselves to four pages. We hope to improve on quality by doing some editing.

[JG] I'll second Scott's plea that you stay in the apa. Don't feel bad about talking and writing about your job; that's what your life is bound up with right now, and as friends it would be sort of ridiculous of us to ask you to talk to us about things that are not central in your life. And anyway, your insights about your work have always been fascinating, and—personally speaking—very useful. This last year, I put practically everything on hold except Scott, my job, and my brother Rick. As a result, I've gotten very much involved in changes and concerns related to my job, and I'd be glad to join you in some constructive career-related discussions.

Thank you (and everyone else who's called, wrote, etc.) for the condolences and care. It does help to know I have friends out there who are thinking of me and willing to help me through bad times. (Hope was great, by the way, coming through in superwomanly fashion with emergency travel agent services, above and beyond the call of duty!) And yes, talking does help... I seem to have gotten a lot of talking done during the week our whole family camped out in Rick's house—mostly at his bedside—while he died. It was an incredibly painful, horror-filled, but at the same time, wonderful week. We spent it telling Rick and one another that we loved each other and him, reminiscing about good times, crying, hugging. For that whole week we made our own universe in that small San Francisco Victorian house and it was almost impossible to imagine walking out or interacting in the outside world. The earthquake seemed a rather inconsequential distraction. We all sat around Rick's bed touching him and one another as he took his last peaceful, very shallow, breath, and then he was gone.

I never experienced the monumental emotional crash or severe depression afterward, I think, because of that very emotional week with my family. It was a very good experience for all of us and drew us together more than I would have thought possible. I still feel terribly sad at times when I think of how brilliant and talented and loving a brother I've lost, when I always expected he'd be my adviser/friend/confidant for my whole life. But I seem to be holding up in typically Gomoll stoic fashion.

My brothers and sister and I have talked often about my parents seeming inability to talk about certain touchy

issues with us, how they typically hold emotion inside and don't confide in their friends when they seem to need to talk the most. But lately we kids have seen that characteristic in ourselves too. To his dying breath, my brother Rick never complained of any pain or discomfort. He was always "fine." We came to understand that he was talking about his mental attitude when he said that. He was exasperated about what his body was doing, but simply refused to dwell on his physical condition. Steve and Julie admit to similar stonewalling with friends and lovers. And I have recently heard so many of my friends—some of them in this area—offer to lend an ear if I need to talk about it all and—other than Scott whose heard it all—I haven't taken any of these offers to unload on them. It's not as if I were lying through my teeth. I honestly do feel that I am OK, that I am handling my emotions in a healthy, work-oriented manner. But when I think about calling up one of my friends to talk about these past months, I'm frankly stumped as to what I would say, other than to recite the chronology of events.

It's much easier to say true, self examining things here in print, than it is in person, because writing is so much more egocentric than conversation. At least it is for me. I pay much more attention to what's inside of me while I write; I pay more attention to you and your reactions when I talk to you. I will probably write about Rick some day. I know quite a bit more about him than I did about my grandpa, about whom I also felt compelled to write after he died. I loved and admired Rick fiercely. He was my best friend when I was young until I was 15 or 16 years old, and he was my gauge for every male friend after that. Perhaps that's why I like so well, a photo I have of Rick and Scott standing together.

It's important to me to make Rick's memory indelible, first for me, but also for others, by writing it down, so I don't forget or edit those memories as time goes by. ...But not here, I think.

Sooo.... Liked your "sermon" to Stupid but Honest Kim. Amen.

LUCY NASH

[SC] In Madison, office opportunities in government and insurance are the way to go judging by the specifications you gave for what you wanted. I think you are in a good position to become familiar with some common word processing programs, get your typing speed up and look around. I'm not suggesting you become a word processor permanently, just use it to get some temporary assignments around town and look for what you want to do and where you want to be. Getting access to people in their offices is a good way to collect info. on what you'd enjoy. You can always take classes once you decide where you're headed. You can also establish contacts and make good impressions on future permanent employers or even decide what kind of services they need that you could supply free-lance. Do I sound like a vocational counselor? It's because I've given the whole subject a lot of thought the last few years.

[JG] Career suggestion: Learn Macintosh graphics programs, especially Pagemaker, Illustrator, and Freehand. Know Pagemaker like it is part of your body. Put together a portfolio.

Really. Temp agencies pay MINIMUM \$35/hour for

computer graphic artists. Imagine what a good freelancer who keeps the overhead commands! That's why I'm learning all I can fast, fast, fast, and planning to go freelance eventually. The DNR's hours and benefits are great, but soon I'll be hard pressed to justify the comparatively low hourly wage I make with the state... It'll be risky at first, but I've been living, breathing, dreaming and working almost round the clock with high-end Mac graphics applications for a year and a half now and I'm ahead of most of Madison's artists competition already in terms of computer skills.

Of course, you might find the long hours less than in improvement over nursing. Also, unfortunately, there aren't many classes you can take in this stuff. It's changing too fast. You have to pick it up yourself by diving in and breathing it for a year or so.

Scott and I thought that everyone in the new *Star Trek* seems to have filled out those unforgiving suits a bit more than last year. All except for Picard, of course, who is stunning as always.

MIKE DUCHARME

[JG] I think Anne Rice is going to link up the vampire and mummy stories from the *Queen of the Damned* and *The Mummy*. Both kinds of creatures have rather parallel genesis stories, don't you think, and suspiciously similar locals, and the hero's particular strengths and weaknesses are strikingly complimentary. (For instance a vampire could kill a mummy by going to bed with it, you know?) What do you think?

BILL BODDEN

[SC] More work stories. Great! Regarding your decision about going to the west side store, does it make any difference to you to leave State St.? I think I would prefer the bustle and activity on State St. to the more peaceful pace out at Market Square. There are so many things convenient to the State St. location that I couldn't see going west unless I lived out there. If you want to work out, take a class from the UW or MATC and use their facilities. Very cheap and convenient solution.

DON HELLEY

[SC] "Art is anything you can get away with"? A bit broad don't you think? Can running stop lights or cheating on your taxes be art? I liked your description of Festival of the Swamps. I like the idea of lampooning Festival of the Lakes, since that event has been so overblown and commercialized. However, I have little taste for art has no point other than to confuse and be obtuse. That also seemed to be the aim of some of the Swamps stuff. I suppose I'm being conservative and un-hip, but I like art that takes me somewhere other than into a brick wall.

Don't forget that the Brat'n'Brau meetings involve everyone in the SF³ group and not just APA members. However, if you are using this opportunity to elicit opinions, I agree with you. As a matter of fact, I brought up the subject very briefly the last time I was there for a meeting. Immediately, people looked at me as if I had just suggested organizing a dead cat potluck. Apparently the last time the group decided to look for another bar/restaurant for meetings it turned into such a hassle for everyone involved that people are prepared to put up with

almost anything to keep from going through that again. Since I am unwilling to do the work of finding a new place, I can't complain too loudly about Brat'n'Brau.

[JG] I agree with you about the Brat'n'Brau: it's become a pretty bad environment for our weekly gathering.

Did you repeat the last page on purpose to check on how many of us actually read your zine?

KIM NASH ☺

[SC] Touching story about Vandy. Losing pets is hard. I am the only one in my family who has yet to acquire a pet of my own. Oh I had them as a kid, but they were always more family pets. I have mostly told myself that I couldn't get one because I've lived so long in apartments. But I also remember how painful it is to lose them—and you always lose them. When my father buried our last dog several years ago, he firmly decided not to get any more dogs. It's too hard to keep them away from the highway that runs past his farm. Yet, when my brother kept a stray that grew too big for his house in town, Dad took him out to the farm. Dad just loves that big, goofy mongrel but we both know that one of these days, Nelson will find the highway and the rabbits on the other side and his time will get short.

[JG] You forgot to put Scott's name on the roster. Hey, maybe I should make a motion for a rule to cover this outrageous omission! ...Naw...

HOPE KIEFER AND KARL HAILMAN ☺

[SC] I just don't know what to say about the cover. It's fantastic. So much work. Why? Amazing. I was thinking of proposing that we have a vote at the end of the year for best cover. Nash is always screaming for covers and this would be sort of an incentive. Anyway, the prize would be dinner at a restaurant of your choice. Paid for by the OE, of course, since it's his APA and he's God. What do you think of that idea?

[JG] Amazing cover. And an amazing announcement. Congratulations to you and Carl (again). And Hope, thanks again for all your help last month!

JOHN PEACOCK ☺

[SC] Congratulations on the wedding announcement. Don't be so sure everyone was expecting it. Jeanne and I were surprised.

My first impression of your Atlantis Takes Off! section was that it was a pretty arrogant treatment of the subject. Positively redneck in parts ("I'd say, let them. T-shirts should be pretty effective in blocking the blast from the main engines!"). After thinking about it I decided I shouldn't be too hard on you. After all, this is a perspective widely shared in fandom. ("The space program, right or wrong!") It is not surprising that fans support the space program. What is surprising is how blind fans often seem to be of criticism of the program and NASA.

[JG] Scott and I talked quite a bit about this fannish phenomenon that transforms so many supposedly thoughtful fans into uncritical sycophants of anything and everything NASA. I've been a fan for a long time. I want to see human beings exploring outer space and settling other planets. But I'm disappointed by the number of fans who

seem willing to justify *any methods* that NASA uses toward those ends. There is far too little discussion in our community about how our enthusiasm, our writers, and our very literature have been coopted by the military establishment that sees outer space primarily as a battleground.

JAMES BRON ☹

[SC] Once again, I enjoyed your contribution. Jeanne is the tea expert in this household and I think she will be looking forward to responding to your contention that we have inferior tea. Nice picture. Is that, by chance, you up there with one of your experiments? Or are you leading up to another party report?

[JG] The tea was very good, and I would be glad to take custody any extra tea bags from anyone in the apa who isn't going to consume their's. Thank you. My cup of tea reminded me of the fine cups of tea I enjoyed during Scott's and my trip to England.

But, James, you're a bit misinformed about the sad state of US tea. It's not quite the wasteland that you seem to imagine. Of course, if you consider only Lipton and its various disguises (which, unfortunately, is the primary tea variety served at most US restaurants), I'd have to agree with you that this country is a tea-lover's hell. But, actually, it's fairly easy to get good tea if you want it. I, for instance, go to a coffee and tea shop called "Steep and Brew," where I buy raw tea every couple months or so, and store it in an airtight glass container. My favorite is a strong black tea flavored with apricot.

It's true, however, that US restaurants discriminate blatantly against tea drinkers. There are exceptions but besides the prevalence of cheap tea varieties (which are cheap because they are made from the whole tea plant—branches included), tea-drinkers are penalized because they do not drink coffee. Coffee-drinkers usually get free refills in the US. In England, I was gratified to note, tea drinkers get a large refill pot with their order, while coffee-drinkers are given one small, single cup which usually isn't refilled. Most US waiters don't believe anyone uses milk or cream with their tea (although that's assumed in Britain), and I usually have to ask several times before they will bring it to me for my tea. I have better luck if Scott remembers to lie and say yes, he'd like cream with his coffee. That's apparently a more believable preference. But I have to kick Scott under the table to remind him not to order his usual black cup of coffee, and after that he sometimes becomes a less entertaining dinner companion, I don't know why.

But I will persist: I love tea and detest coffee. I've found one or two sources for very good tea and only wish that more US restaurants would serve better varieties with less prejudice. If you'd like to try some of our good stuff, I'd be glad to trade some samples with you.

Thanks again for the good cup of tea ☹.

Scott & Jeanne

