
maLaise #32

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Dave Van Arnam will be commenting on the 30th Apa L mlg in the 32d Apa L mlg (notice how I finally got my pub number up even with the mlg?), and so will Ted White. [] This fmz remains in favor of the TRICON, the NYCon III, and Eack To The Gate in '68! [] It also wants to get thru with this half-column jass real quick so it can get into the actual comments....

ED MESKYS: (MAYHEM ANNEX/2) Hm, well, it was you that asked about the [] dingus, not TG. [] The Lunarians local-apa was an idea of Mike McInerney and Andy Porter, based on the success of Apa F. Mike thot of it, Andy named it Apa S(elene) because Apa L was already taken at the time, and Fred Lerner got all enthusiastic about it and all. JBoardman brot some zines for it, but apart from that nobody was interested either in contributing zines or even -- ghod help us -- in picking any up that were thus made available... The Lunarians just aren't fanzine fans. By the way, I just became a member last week. I wonder where all this fanac will stop... [] No reason why Felice can't comment two weeks late if your schedules don't mesh. I comment two weeks late, and so does Ted.

BJO TRIMBLE: (EXPLETIVE/...) I dunno, I was sort of interested in the comix indices; I know little and care less about DCs, but it was nice to know why I couldn't make any sense out of what was run in the two indexed zines (namely that they were tryout zines for new strips -- Ted explained this to me once, but I didn't really realize what he meant till I saw the index). [] Well, actually, I don't give gifts much (I think the last time was about 3 Xmas'es ago), and I sort of feel embarrassed when I get one. I don't necessarily have anything agin gifts in either direction, but I find it almost impossible to think of appropriate gifts, and I hate to get that goodwill ob planted on me when someone gives me a gift. Hm. This is not precisely what I mean. I do think Katya's list was a Good Thing, however, even tho I did not utilize it... And now I see that you go on to say "People can't seem to accept a heart-given gift," and several other cogent things. I don't quite know where I fit in there, but I do know that when I get something, a good meal for instance, I may be slightly incoherent but I do appreciate it just the same. Oddly, it seems that this sort of subject is to many people almost more embarrassing to discuss (in print at least) than sex. [] I forget what the CATS translated "Poulet a'l'Ancienne" to -- was it "old chicken"? [] "Where are the whips I ordered this morning?" (Zacherley's "Translations From The Transylvanian") [] Wasn't it Dave Hulan who thot up "Actifan Comics"? (This is a comment to AL/31...) And mebbe don't do up the comic booklet until after the Westercon? You might get some good sequences from it...

DICK LUPOFF's OPO/43 reminds me to suggest reprinting Steve Stiles and Atom's OPO headings for THE BEST FROM APA L (BFAL, for short); they cd be used for spot illos. Also for BFAL, at one point have a listing of all contributors (up to pub time, uv cuss) to Apa L in at some point? Also, I think that MICHAEL KLASSEN's "Mathematical Theology" from BARAD-DUR/7 shd be considered for BFAL.

TED WHITE: (maLaise/29) It's not that Ace doesn't recognize the Berne Convention. The USA doesn't recognize the Berne Convention; it never signed. [] In most respects I prolly agree with you pretty much about how our society is sexually sick; what sort of practical activities wd you recommend its lay (disclaimer) members to practice to attempt to Remedy this?

DAVE HULAN: (NIDDHOGGR/20) Curious that you shd think few NYC fans wd fit in at LASFS and vice versa; fundamentally the Fanoclasts are fanzine and non-program-oriented fans, it's true, but I don't see this as an insuperable barrier either way. As for LASFans in NY, I'm sure many wd fit in with the Fanoclasts, and those that also hungered for Program wd find ESFA and the, what, CCNY? group provide a lot of that element.

LEN BAILES: (IPZIK!/30) My copy has many sharp clear fingerprints all over it, some in the darndest places, like the center of the page. An interesting artistic effect...

BRUCE PELZ: (HET BPEMR/30) Your Marvel songs were great. Hope they get forwarded on to Stan Lee, tho I doubt they'd see print... [] Ah doan quite unnerstan page two... or am I reading too much into it?

FRED PATTEN: (RABANOS RADIATIVOS!/30) I think your citing of the opening of the posthumous James Bond book pretty well indicates the way in which Fleming was unique. His audacity was unpredictable. There are those who say it was also unconvincing, but I think that this kind of criticism is most apt to come from people who just don't have a taste for flamboyant audacity. [] I bet that Stan Lee himself doesn't know who the Green Goblin is. And I also bet he doesn't give an answer for a long long time.

DAVE HULAN again: (GARM/2) I've got this covered with annotations, but I suspect that little of my response was negative. I hope you do send this thru Apa F, by the way, since JBoardman does still do pretty complete mc's in DAGON and seems extremely relieved not to have the prospect of a day's work doing AL mc's every week, any more. [] "Prejudice against religion..." I wonder; I am completely against religion, I think it's factually false, does more harm than ever it has done gone, etc., etc.; am I prejudiced against religion because I think these things? (This partly relates to a discussion at FISTFA between Ted White and rich brown, on the meaning of several words.) Or cd you at least say I am biased? I wonder if it is possible to hold a total belief on something and escape a pejorative description. I have not phrased this well, but perhaps you can dig a comment hook out of it somewhere. If someone loathes and despises something with reason, how is his attitude to be described? (Note: I'm not relating this to John; it just pushed one of my own buttons.) [] Again, I think you stated your case here very well on Communism, and also on integration. One of these days I'm gonna be refuting Ted on Nixon, and I'll probably be referring to this issue of GARM when I do; you made some excellent points. I sure do wish that those who complain about the US in Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic wd also complain a little bit about the ChiComs in Tibet, and the Russkis in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, none of which places the Communists have any right to be in... But alas, the most one usually hears is a mild regretful phrase (as with the current anti-Semitism in Russia), and then the usual full course of insults at the US for whatever it happens to have done lately (it makes no difference what; nothing the US does with an anti-Communist flavor is ever the right thing to have done).
Owell.

As a matter of plain fact, one of the reasons I haven't gotten around to answering Ted's comments is that so many of them were answered previously in FIRST DRAFT (tho I cd hardly expect many Ellers to know this, since
(cont'd on page 6...)

sigh...it's maLaisian flu again... from Ted White, as always...*sigh*

I've been reading two fascinating books, lately. The first is a book Lee Hoffman found, and which so gassed her that she got a copy of it for me. It's Foster-Harris' The Look of the Old West (Viking), and it is a superb rundown of all sorts of details and trivia about the Old West. As the author puts it in his preface, "There are worlds and worlds of vital statistics about the West, but just try and visualize a vital statistic! How does it hold its pants up? Does it pack a gun, smoke, chew, wear its hair long, smell sort of peculiar?" While ostensibly a children's book, it is well-indexed, and I think I'll be finding it an invaluable reference work.

The second book I've not finished yet, but that's Doc Holliday by John Myers Myers. I presume you Myers Myers fans are familiar with it; it's a factual account of the life and career of Doc Holliday, one of the more colorful and unusual characters in the Old West. But I am less interested in it as a biography of Holliday than I am (again) in the detail and color of the West which it sketches. It forms a good complement to The Look of the Old West, because while Foster-Harris gives us the background details, Myers Myers tells us about the people and events which took place on this fantastic stage. (I also have a western by Myers Myers, Dead Warrior, on my shelf to be read...) My only quibble with Doc Holliday is the writing style, which tends towards convolution and a too-cuteness every so often. You can kind of visualize the author starting to use a common expression or cliché, and then thinking, "How can I twist that into a new variation?" Sometimes it seems as though more thought were given such sidelights than the narrative itself, although I can't fault Myers Myers his research.

Other reading lately has included the first stf book I've cracked in months: Heinlein's Orphans of the Sky. Heinlein is one writer I can read and re-read, and I have. I'd read both "Universe" and "Common Sense", in earlier incarnations, but I wanted to read them together this time.

I was disappointed. This is pretty minor-grade Heinlein, unfortunately, despite the fact that it is trail-blazing Heinlein. I was amazed at the way in which he left so many scenes unrealized, content to baldly describe potentially dramatic action scenes and then move on to pages of flowing, but essentially static (in terms of plot) dialogue. The whole book is largely dialogue, and while I may myself tend too greatly in the opposite direction, it made me feel as though the book was far too short, the action too compressed, and the description too sparse.

I've Also Read... The Clayborn western series (Dell) by "Al Conroy." "Conroy" is Marvin Albert, whose Gold Medal Jake Barrow mysteries, under the name of "Nick Quarry" I've enjoyed in the past. Under his own name Albert does film novelizations (which I've not attempted to read), and he did some mystery singles for Gold Medal as "Albert Conroy." His westerns seem to vary according to the byline he uses; his single Gold Medal western as Marvin Albert is a bomb, while the Dell Clayborn books are rather nicely handled, if occasionally a bit bloody for my taste. Louis L'Amour he's not, but the Clayborn series is one of the best presently appearing.

F&SF Tidbits: Since writing the above, I passed on a submission from none other than John Myers Myers. It was a heroic verse

thing which did nothing to me at all; but which I figured we might want to use for name value, or Something.

I'm also negotiating with F&SF for the publication there of Phoenix Prime. If you think it's easier to slip your own material into a mag you help edit -- well, you're Wrong. It's harder, because everyone has second thoughts about stuff that close to home. Last fall I sold the magazine -- a short story by Larry McCombs & yhos, and everyone on the staff had to read it first, and vote among themselves. Three or so previous short stories had been rejected. So I was doubtful about ol' PP. But Ed Ferman loved it. "This is far and away the best thing I've seen by you, Ted," he said. "However..." The catch is that it's science-fantasy, and we have a lot of that on hand in the longer lengths. I suggested that I might cut the book into two novelettes, rather'n make a two-part serial of it. "Well, we'll let Bob Mills look at it and see what he thinks," Ed said. "Personally, I loved it. I read it in one sitting...picked it up around 6:00 and finished it around 8:30." Oh well. I have another book review coming up anyway...

Mlg. 30

RABANOS RADIATIVOS: Patten - You couldn't be Tom Gilbert. He would never mess around with his title logos the way you do.

It isn't that "unending serials" sell better in the Marvel Comics, but that they are much easier to write. Actually, Stan pays very little attention to which features are selling; he is interested in which characters excite his enthusiasm, and are thusly easier to write and handle. Giantman was a very popular (and ~~but~~ \$\$\$\$ful) strip when he killed it. But he, personally, did not like it. Stan is convinced that the "Marvel treatment" will sell any kind of story-strip, and that the quality of treatment is more important than the individual characters. He is also, I might add, an EC fan... (I hear Jim is going to have the tape of our broadcast with Stan transcribed; this all came out during the show.)

Seen the new FLYMAN? A very poor attempt to immitate Marvel...

HOMBREN #30: Mann - I have two of these, for some reason. I also have an extra of the third page of SPECKLED RABBIT #9, if anyone needs it...

A FANZINE FOR BARRY GOLD...AND TOM GILBERT: Pelzes - In the abstract, this is a lovely multi-leveled ploy. In the specific, it's one of the most deliberately obscene things I've seen in a fanzine...but even that has relevancy...

NIDDHOGGR #20: Hulan - Some months ago I acquired a huge electric Ditto which prints up to 14½ x 15, but was missing the actual paper feed mechanism. I obtained a parts catalogue and price list from Ditto Inc., and the cost would be \$40.00 -- just for a feed arm and rollers. I've not done anything about it since -- the machine is sitting in my basement office collecting dust -- but if I do, I may try running some dittoed stuff through APA L. I must say that turning from mimeo to ditto sure can upset one's fannish image, though...

Tru-ray can be bought in this city for something like two or three dollars -- some totally outrageous figure like that -- which Steve Stiles found out in purchasing some chartreuse Tru-ray. At those prices, they'll never outsell our old standbys, Katone and Topsham, at 85¢ a

ream.

Dave may be a Shrewd Psychologist, but you were pretty Obvious in SAPS a mailing or two back, when you told someone (Rich Brown?) that you'd pick up any quarrel he might take with Katya. From there it was but a simple extrapolation that she would be your weak point if someone wanted to use the Twenty Words on you. Thing is, everyone has his weak points, and if you know anyone well enough, you could probably find his Twenty Words. The actual number of words is immaterial; it's the fact that everyone does have at least one button to be pushed -- whether it takes twenty, or two hundred words to push it. But I guess we've belabored that point sufficiently now...

Your ideas of who from NYC or the Fanoclasts would fit into LASFS is amusing, but overmuch based on paper personalities, I think. I doubt I would have any trouble fitting into the LASFS if I lived in LA -- I had no trouble with the VSFA, which was similarly set up. In fact, I think most of the Fanoclasts would Fit In. And almost all LASFSers who participate in APA L would fit easily enough into the Fanoclasts, I suspect -- although this is more guess-work. Certainly they'd find: one of the local clubs to their liking.

What I might do, if the Martians Invaded is one thing. What I want in my fiction is another. One thing I don't want is an author to preach at me, particularly if he's trying to "prove" an attitude I don't agree with in the process. I'm a pragmatist. If we're attacked, or it looks like we will be, I'm all for a strong defense and etc. On the other hand, a First Contact is a tricky thing, and I am not hot to itchy-finger it into a new kind of war. People who assume war is a natural and inevitable result of alien contacts may be able to "prove" the point within the framework of their stories (a la Starship Troopers), but the attitude does not win my sympathy.

Actually, I find myself in a curious position of being with neither Left nor Right on this. I am too damned pragmatic for either doctrinaire approach. Which is why I like stories about pragmatic heros, I guess...

OPO 43: Lupoff - First Van A ignore's it; now you do. What About My Part In The Lunacon Program? (Fortunately, I am able to rectify this Gross Oversight by quoting from a letter from Charlie Brown: "You certainly helped make the editor's panel lively! You were the only one on the panel who seemed to have something new to say. I hope you turn it into an article for one of the fanzines real soon." Actually, the reason I had something new to say was because I'd never been on an editor's panel before...)

#30: Gold - Ahahaha! But Dave never completed the story of the Subway Episode...!

EXPLETIVE: Bjo - You mean to say Harry Warner "flitted in on the meeting night when the vote was cast" to preserve the Thursday night meetings? Wow. I never thought he was that much a traditionalist. Well, I'm with you: here's to a Friday night meeting!

You've told Guess Who, have you? Ghod, your mind knows no end of evial and bedeviling tricks! Just for that I will sue you for your complete set of OOTWA! Heh, heh...

I get the feeling from your comments that you're not familiar with Frank Harris, whose erotic memoirs Gold so neatly exerpted. Harris was a contemporary of Oscar Wilde's (and his biography of Wilde was fascinating, if less than accurate), and in those days you were not as explicit about naming sexual organs. He was trying to write something more than

pornography, even if the section Barry quoted does not reveal the fact...
 I generally agree about the Keanes, but Mrs. Keane is a much better artist than her husband, and her paintings show a lot more variety of characters. Some are rather good, in fact, and have no pop-eyed little girls in them at all...

BUCKET OF PLAID: Trimble - Well, my copy of the mlg. contained the Harris exerpt, so I guess all the copies which went through the mails did. You're relatively safe; the book is legally on sale now, and has been for over a year. But I can't see that the sections quoted added much to APA L -- and I trust they won't be included in the Best Of volume...home-grown material (like the Scribe's) is much to be preferred.

MAYHEM ANNEX #2: Meskys - When In Rome is the novel you're thinking of; it's a collaboration between Van A and me. It doesn't have a "really good transit system" for NYC -- just a slightly better one. Try my Ace book, coming out in a couple of months -- I really souped up NYC's subways in that one -- including subways under the bay to Staten Island from Manhattan, and over the Narrows Bridge from Brooklyn...

The square really is on Dave's typer -- the one he has at work, that is -- and it's not an add-on typit, I'm pretty sure. (Well, here's where I cut the ground from under Dave completely...) The zine in question was multilithed on his boss's new ABD multi, and the illo was done on a paper master with litho-pencil. You could never get that kind of appearance from an electronic stencil. I'm surprised at you, Ed; you're usually keener about such things.

Speaking of which, what kind of typer/face is that you used here? I'd guess it averages pretty close to twenty-pitch, although with a proportionally spaced face like that it's difficult to be sure... It sure beats micro-elite for compressed readability, though.

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And thus conclude the latest episode in this sterling series of mailing comments by...

-- Ted White

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((and Dave Van Arnam here picks up a sentence from page 2...)) of course I never have gotten around to reprinting the 4 or 5 volumes that appeared in Apa F only. I was, in fact, going to get to it at last, in FIRST DRAFT #63, but it turned into THREE ARTISTS #63, and...

I got a stack of WESTERCON progress reports from John Trimble this morning, for distribution in Apa F and to assorted interested parties. It really does look like it's going to be worth looking forward to. Um, I really must send my dollar in...

Tom Gilbert tells me I won't be getting AL mlg's on Saturday any more, and this seems to be true; I got it Saturday last week, Monday (or, "this morning") this week. It was quite a shock getting it so late (!!) and I may be forced to start slipping Tom a Special Delivery stamp every week... He also tells me he's not gonna write up the Punctuation question since it's mostly quotations; so maybe I'll write it up, based on the letter he sez he's gonna send me on the subject; I knew I was in hoping he was the sane...

-- dgv