

\* \* \* \* \* The fourth rockin' issue of a weekly fanzine  
**APPARATCHIK** by Andrew Hooper, the only member fwa high  
\* \* \* \* \* atop The Starliter Arms, 4228 Francis Ave. N.  
# 4 April 7th, 1994 # 103, Seattle, WA 98103. This is Drag Bunt  
\* \* \* \* \* Press Production # 177, aka "THREE INNINGS"

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The Right to Loot & Pillage is the Right to be Free  
-- G. Benford, 1964

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TAKE ME OUT to a ball game! I'm even more enthusiastic about this season than usual, because after a two-year hiatus, the Luke Appling League is back in business. Following my departure from Wisconsin in early 1992, and the de facto terminus of my tenure as High Commissioner of the L.A.L., the league failed to conduct baseball operations for the first time since 1985. During the interregnum, I followed the Major League seasons with some measure of pleasure, but never with the kind of feverish delight brought on by constant roster manipulation and consumption of box scores in years gone by.

Happily, some other League members felt the loss as keenly as I, and were willing to actually do something about it. Karl Hailman has agreed to perform the role of commissioner, five previous members were added to five new teams, and we held our draft on March 27th. My own Madison Blues boast last year's long ball champion, Juan Gonzalez, 1993 American League batting champion John Olerud, 1992 American League batting champion Edgar Martinez, relief aces Duane Ward and Dennis Eckersley, twenty-game winners Kevin Appier and Bill Swift, World Series Hero Joe Carter, and a big fat guy who hits home runs, Cecil Fielder.

How they'll do against the likes of Fox Valley Flycatchers and the Wrigleyville Wombats remains to be seen, but the results of our ersatz pennant races are secondary to the state of enhanced awareness which Alternative Baseball theorists inevitably develop. Odd voices will wake me up in the night, driving me to call the Library of Congress for information on Barry Larkin's knees, to worry about my platoon configurations until three in the morning, to deal Carlos Delgado and Chris Hoiles for Mike Lavalliere and a case of Bama pecan pies, and to offer a healthy reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who stole Robin Ventura's swing. No questions asked.

Oh yeah, the real thing: I promised Pennant predictions this time. Did you all know that the team with the fourth best record in either league might possibly win the world series this year? The Braves, Phillies, Giants and Reds will all make the playoffs, with Atlanta emerging as the pennant winner in the National League. Toronto, Chicago, Texas and Cleveland(!) will reach the post season from the American League, with Chicago fighting through to send Atlanta to its third World Series defeat in four years. First Manager to be fired this season: Cubs Skipper Tom Trebelhorn.

Christ, I think I was starting to sound like Hlavaty for a minute there -- only the sport had changed -- give me a moment to catch my breath.

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#### Our Skeletons Make Merry When We Do

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SKIPPED NORWESCON ALTOGETHER, sorry if I missed any APAK readers. I left the program chair a message asking if I could participate in any way, months ago, but they never called back. Thousands of fans raged all night in SeaTac, and I felt no desire to be among them. Had the usual Vanguard party on Saturday, which was fun enough, and Singer brought Mike Ford with him from the hotel, and we even sat around and talked SF. All agreed we would try to attend Minicon next Easter.

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But the Heinkel was a horizontal bomber  
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[WHEN LAST WE LEFT OUR INTREPID CORRESPONDENTS, we were considering the question of how to address some of the vagaries confronting TAFF in the nineties. Most felt that they would do little to change TAFF, aside from providing prospective delegates with greater flexibility in choosing their itinerary. Now, George Flynn has been waiting all week to be heard; I'll give him the floor, and lock my comments into brackets, and initial them, like this: -- aph]

GEORGE FLYNN: "I'm puzzled...by your statement about "an oddly backward gesture for fandom to have barred on-line fanac from Hugo eligibility." We have in fact done just the opposite, and explicitly defined on-line writing as qualifying for Best Fan Writer eligibility." [Quite right - but if I'm not mistaken, that measure failed at least once before it passed. But really, I was thinking at the time of the arguments advanced against making electric media eligible for any of the fannish Hugos. People who distribute fanzines to 300 people at the most haven't any right to complain about the relative inaccessibility of on-line writing.--aph]

MORE GEORGE: "As for TAFF, I'm not sure there is a problem. The races go on, we seem to raise enough money to pay for the trips, and the winners enjoy themselves about as much as can be expected. ...Not having the delegates attend a con wouldn't work either...wandering across the country to see people individually is a good deal more costly in terms of both money and time. I seem to be saying that any substantial change will make things worse than they are now; maybe so."

[I think it's a far cry from eschewing the worldcon to skipping conventions altogether. For European delegates, attending a pair of smaller conventions in widely-separated regions ought to be as useful as one weekend at Worldcon. And think how much better we would be equipped to host and entertain them if we didn't have the madness of Labor Day to distract us. On the other hand, I have to admit that I have no reason to assume that TAFF delegates would like American regionals, or Corflu, or even a weekend spent as if at home in a drafty cold water urban flat, huddled round a pot of burning coal, tossing back beakers full of chalky, grey "beer" and castigating the price they have to pay for a copy of last weekend's Guardian.

Now, let's move on to response on APPARATCHIK # 2, in which I complained that fans seemed thin-skinned, snappish and ill-groomed in the modern era, and that I feared some general outbreak of feud. -- aph]

ROBERT LICHTMAN: "As to your 'uneasy feeling that we in fandom may be standing again on the brink of war,' I'd be surprised. I don't see SFC on a regular basis, so I haven't seen Schweitzer's attacks on the ConFrancisco Committee; but I would submit that it's been a tradition for eons in fandom to fault the Worldcon committee and Darrell's (and numerous others') criticisms of ConFrancisco are entirely in keeping with that tradition. Why, even attacking Ted White is hardly new. I can recall Ted being the subject of scorn and obliquy (A word that is much underutilized in fandom) back when I got into fandom. Ah, the fannish constants! Where would we be without them?"

"...When you get beyond the catch phrases and the "safe" attacks, Ted in his critical writing is no more caustic than, say, Leah Smith (to name another fanzine reviewer with a current regular column). He just happens to make (in my mind quite appropriate) comments on fans and fanzines certain others consider sacrosanct. (Or choose to make sacrosanct for the express purpose of being able to attack Ted.)

"Your closing interlineation reminds me of the closing

line of an article by Calvin Demmon called "The Potato Skin in Modern Medical Practice" which appeared as part of his "Grunt" column in FRAP No. 4: "The use of a potato skin as a prophylactic is contraindicated." [Naturally - the lino I used was lifted from more FRAP stuff by Demmon, which concerned the role of the potato skin in the modern office. All these linos are stolen from somewhere - and there's one person out there who understands the provenance and meaning of each and every line, and that person will one day tread the jeweled thrones of Hyboria beneath their sandaled feet. -- aph] DAVE RIKE: "...Yes, people are rather touchy nowadays, such as the couple who quit a monthly apa in a huff because others dared to offer their views on what happened at a dinner-from-hell after they gave their version. But even if a Blow Up happens, so what? A few egos get bruised, some bubbles are popped, but whatever is happening will keep on occurring. Most of this conflict, in fandom, happens within people's heads, not out there in the streets. (As far as I know there's been only one drive-by shooting in fandom. That happened many years ago at a LASFS party and apparently it had nothing to do with the club nor the people at the party....)

"I read Darrell Schweitzer's comments in FOSFAX and I think he has a point complaining about how ConFrancisco was structured to atomize the attendees instead of bringing them together. A con done as an industrial trade show...and a concom so spaced out they couldn't provide adequate security to their own staff people. Of course, you didn't have that problem because all of your admirers were able to come and spend time with you in the Fan Lounge while Darrell and friends didn't have space like that for themselves." [Fearful observations Dave, especially the part about atomizing the attendees. --aph]

FAITHFUL GEORGE FLYNN: "My observation...is that most people who have been burned in feuds tend to be more circumspect thereafter; but eventually enough new people come in who haven't...and the cycle repeats. Once upon a time I was involved in a knock-down, drag-out "violent spasm" in my local fandom. On at least three occasions since, I thought I saw the signs of a possible repetition...but it didn't happen. It's like that crack about the stock market having predicted nine of the last four recessions... So if all Fandom is indeed Plunged into War again, I'm sure that subsequent analysis will be able to point to portents. But it won't mean anything."

TEDDY HARVIA: "The root cause of many fan feuds are individuals who take themselves or others too seriously. Some fans are just waiting for the right or wrong fan or situation to cross their paths...Most feuds start and continue because fans refuse to communicate. Individuals who feel words threaten their very fannishness are insecure in their own identity." [Well said, but the worst feuds suffer from all too much communication; once an issue is raised in a variety of fanzines and bandied about in multiple fannish circles, it becomes impossible to escape from the unending debate. --aph]

HARRY WARNER: "I hadn't noticed any particular increase in the amount of touchiness in fandom of late. If it exists at, it might have something to do with the way all of the planets are preparing to line up in a straight row...or with the ever-nearer date when everyone must write the year with a 2 instead of a 1, which will probably start the breakdown of civilization due to the need to go against an inherited characteristic.

"I have never expressed the belief that Ted White's review of A Wealth of Fable was a personal attack on me."

TED WHITE: "I think you make a mistake in seeing the Great Feuds as anything other than what they were (and still are): personality conflicts Writ Large. It's not like a Gathering Storm, or some Movement ordained by Fate. It's not like you could forestall it with

anything short of a bullet in the brain.... These were the acts of specific, individual people, and as such not subject to Historical Forces, no matter the coincidence of occurring 20 years apart....

"Were there warnings? Sure. The talk against Breen began to take a serious tone in 1961, post-Seacon, with letters circulated privately among fans such as Richard Eney, George Scithers and F.M. Busby concerning Breen's supposed attempt to seduce Gordon Eklund. When I was made privy to this correspondence (via Busby) I shot it down by noting that the room in which Breen had offered "crash space" to Eklund was being shared by Andy Main, and Sylvia and myself, with no room for privacy or seduction. Nonetheless, Scithers attempted to get Earl Kemp, chair of the 1962 Worldcon, to ban Breen. Kemp refused. Scithers then tried the idea on the 1963 Worldcon committee (of which he was a member). It was not until 1964 that a Worldcon committee acted on Scithers' urgings, largely because Walter then lived among them, was intimately known to them, and disliked by a large proportion of them.

As for "Topic A," again, there were warning hints, much more visible in hindsight than at the time -- which is why we (the Nielsen Haydens and myself) misread the situation so badly at first. For more than six months before the Bergeron hit the fan, his WIZ had been full of teases and hints of what was coming, if you only knew how to read it. ...But no one realized what it meant then. They were just part of the background static." [Ted has yards more to offer here, and we'll come back with further excerpts next week. Plus, a modest TAFF proposal from Arnie & Joyce Katz. Right now I have to catch a plane to Las Vegas. Next Ish: Silvercon III! --aph]

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Soup, used rightly by a mathematician, helps him to do better.  
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APPARATCHIK IS THE GREYFRIAR'S BOBBY OF FANDOM, huddled, whimpering, by the long-interred corpse of it's assassinated master, Science Fiction. As death approaches, the hallucinations become more and more intolerable. You can get three months worth of it for \$3.00, or a year's worth for \$12.00, or a lifetime supply for \$19.73, or in exchange for a few published LoCs or maybe you were lucky enough to be born into one of the coveted hereditary subscriptions, and your children and your children's children will know the wonder of its dyspeptic wheezing and scratching just as interminably as you have.

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The SHERMAN ZWICKER was built for Zwicker and Co. Limited in 1942...  
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Address Correction Requested