

DAGON

#15

APA-F Mailing #33

19 February 1965

"CONTRIBUTING, BUT NOT ATTENDING"

We have passed up tonight's FISTFA meeting, as well as the first CCNY Sci-Fi meeting of the new semester, to attend a talk by Willy Ley at a Mensa meeting. Onkol Willy has taken as his topic the rather wide region "Beyond the Solar System". There may be a report in the next DAGON if I feel in a note-taking mood tonight.

GETTING CAUGHT UP

In which John Boardman, bound and determined to hang something on every comment hook in APA-F, has by now worked his way up to the 23rd mailing. I still lack a few mailings, but will pick them up, Ricardo Volente, before the end of the month.

Crudzone Quarterly #22 (Brown): Was that a typo or did you really mean to say "ailing comments"?

I find it quite amusing to watch how the pronouncements which emanate from the Olympus where conservative philosophers congregate are translated into action as they come down to the lowlands where most of us live. Philosophical anarchism, whether of the right as Rand's and the New Individualists' or of the left as Rousseau's and Bakunin's, is able to get off some fine-sounding pronouncements about how happily man could live if some alien entity called "big government" would only leave him alone. But in practice it means abandoning the weak to the strong, and leaving the weak (whether weakness is defined in economic, political, or racial stratification of the particular society) no recourse but to unite and revolt.

Yes, the von Hayeks and the von Miseses (von Meeses?) and the Baskleys put fine sweeping generalizations into the pages of their books and magazines. But when these theories are translated into practice, as in Alabama and Mississippi, it means fire, dynamite, cattle prods, savage dogs, and lynching. And Puckley then doesn't have a thing to say except, "The central question that emerges...is whether the White community in the South is entitled to take such measures as are necessary to prevail, politically and culturally, in areas where it does not prevail numerically? The sobering answer is Yes...The question, as far as the White community is concerned, is whether the claims of civilization supersede those of universal suffrage...National Review believes that the South's premises are correct...Sometimes the minority cannot prevail except by force; then it must determine whether the prevalence of its will is worth the price of using force!" - National Review, 24 Aug. 1957, p. 149. Clearly the "White community" in the South has so decided. Yet Luckley gets quite indignant when you try to draw a straight line from this editorial to the graves of James Chaney, Andrew Schwerner, and Michael Goodman.

Dogler! #27 (Porter) & First Draft #40 (Van Arnan): As things go these days, it is not so awfully far from the Bay of Pigs to Turtle Bay (where the UN HQ is located). The United States, having sanctioned and encouraged Cuban emigres to shoot up the former, has only itself to blame if they continue on to attack the latter. Why not send these Cubans to Spain? There they will be living among people of their own language and culture, and under a government quite similar to the one which prevailed in Cuba under their beloved Batista.

Franished V. 2 #1 (Brown): Another sign of the passage of time in one's fanac is the way that, as his publishing activity proceeds, the fanzine fan will go from large genzines to small 2-pagers aimed at a small intimate group. Compare, for example, the POINTING VECTORS and KNOWABLES of a year or two ago, with today's DAGONS and SAGANAs. (And just when is the next issue of Jargon coming out, Iavo?)

This is

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves

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POETRY WHICH RHYMES AND SCANS

by John Boardman

THE SLAG-HEAPS OF MEROI

The slag-heaps of Meroi are eloquent
 In silence. Under hot Nilotic skies
 They contradict a racial argument
 Which on their non-existence still relies.
 These are not Pittsburgh's grimy clinker hills,
 Nor is this slag from either Birmingham,
 Nor did a Russian leave the Sverdlovsk mills
 To forge steel pilings for the Aswan Dam.

No; centuries have left Meroi in dust
 Since black hands worked the peerless Nubian steel.
 The swords of Queen Kandaké's men are rust.
 But now the students of the past reveal
 That ere two thousand years these slagheaps grew,
 And half the world bought steel in the Sudan;
 While naked Britons daubed their backsides blue
 And dined on rib-roasts from their fellow-man.

GETTING CAUGHT UP (continued from p. 1)

DAGON #13 (Boardman): While rummaging through a heap of old manuscripts in search of the above poem and others, I turned up the file of Cultzines which was missing after the Fanoclast/FISTFA Christmas Eve party here. My apologies for the suspicions I entertained concerning their disappearance.

Degler! #30 (Porter): Since Syracuse fandom didn't exist in 1961, I rather doubt that in the subsequent years a group capable of planning and financing a convention has grown up there. And at present the only fan whom I know to live in Syracuse is Jay Kay Klein.

We don't have a big LASFS-type group for New York fans, but the existence of LASFS shows that it can be done. All ages are represented in LASFS, and there have even been some notable feuders under that same broad roof.

Maybe someone ought to bring it up at the EasterCon...

Fanoclast Woakly V.3 #5 (Katz): How to determine which of two girls is going to get laid first? Well, have you ever seen how two sandlot ball-players determine whose side gets to bat first?

First Draft #43 (Van Arnam): I wouldn't take too seriously Steve Allen's plans, elicited and publicized by Dollar Bill Buckley, to bomb China. Steve Allen, like Norman Mailer, is a damned inconvenience to liberals. Buckley, who can out-think either of them, hauls one or the other around the country or before TV cameras, sets him up in a chair, bills him as a "liberal", and then proceeds to knock the stuffing out of this straw man. You'll notice that Buckley has ceased to debate the real heavyweights among liberals, such as James Wechsler; he knows when he's outclassed.

Those international problems which seem to have Communism as a common denominator, are actually caused by old-fashioned nationalism. Communism is a form taken by nationalism (except among Trotskyite purists). We are faced with nationalist and anti-colonialist movements throughout the world - sometimes they are also anti-American (as in Vietnam), sometimes also anti-Russian (as in Hungary), sometimes they are even accomplished by evolutionary means (as in the way the smaller countries of eastern and western Europe have been, over the past 15 years, drifting away from Russia and the United States respectively).
 More nextish.