



Zoe Slaton

MEOW

NUMBER —

Here we go again with the editorial portion of MEOW. Grab your beans because here we go again with that sterilizing column called MEOW #5 and my N'APAc in general.

MEOW #5 and my N'APAc in general.

Gee, I sure did use some fancy layouts last time, didn't I? I'm especially proud of the nifty upside down one that I came up with for the article on the New Wave. It's one of the more unusual layouts I've seen in a fanzine. I hope you all won't slavishly copy me.

I suppose this is as good a place as any to thank those who voted for me in the egoboo poll. It's nice to know that at least a few people like my stuff.

As you no doubt noticed, Bailes and I celebrated our high finishes in the poll by withdrawing EXCALIBUR from N'APA.

I suppose some explanations are in order. I have noted with a certain amount of alarm that EX doesn't get much in the way of comments. Worse, because of the presence of EX, MEOW and NATTER-JACK don't seem to get their rightful share of comments either. I, for one, don't publish to holler down an empty well. EX is gone because few seemed to care if it stayed. I'm hoping that SAPS will be a more convivial atmosphere for EX. I do hope that some of you will care enough about the zine to want to astill get it. A promise to LoC or a contribution will do very nicely.

But don't get the idea that I'm stomping over the hill. I hope to continue to bring out large issues of MEOW on a regular basis as I have been doing lately. I'd be a liar if I said that, right at this minute, I had a burning enthusiasm for N'APA. I don't. Still, I do like the group, and as long as it affords enjoyment, I'll do my best to entertain you all with a varied lot of material.

I understand that Fred Lerner is introducing a motion to alter the Bylaws to permit N'APA to separate from the N3F. I've said quite a bit on this subject already, so I'll only add that I support the motion. I would also like to encourage every single member to vote. Further, this is a prelude to actually introducing the resolution to separate. For godsakes, don't vote for this if you're not willing to go all the way. I'm afraid I've run out of space. See you in the September mailing- Arnie

MEOW #6 is edited and published by Arnie Katz, 98 Patton Blvd., New Hyde Park, New York, 11043. It is Mewo Pub #43 and Katzac #59. Cover is by Joe Staton, I should assume. All material is written by me, but that's the way it goes. NYCon III in '67.

Before I launch head-long (and strong) into the fabulous mailing comments for this quarter, I'd like to welcome all the new members, particularly Al Scott, and thank all of those who voted me all those points in the Egoboo Poll. With no reflection upon Ed, who would have won honestly if Fred has ever bothered to tell how many Free Points there were so that I could have voted, I consider it

a great honor to have received the most points of any N'APAn in the poll. I'm not going to complain because I don't get the Fancy Ass Title of President, but I would like to know why the votes for one zine, EXCALIBUR, were split between the co-editors while NIEKAS had its points awarded to but one of its two editors. I hope Fred won't try to tell me that Felice wanted it that way since I doubt that any member has the right to assign his/her votes to another member. I sincerely would like to know how come the different rules. As I said, I'm quite willing to accept the totals as you have them, but I sincerely would like to know how it came to be thus.

ALLIANCE AMATEUR -Fred

As Len said in NJ, EX is gone from N'APA. It never really got many comments, possibly because it started here (except for #1), and its old image still dogged it. Perhaps sometime in the future the Bailes and Katz team will send a genzine through N'APA again, it might even be EX. Untill that nebulous some time, though, I hope some of you will be interested in continuing to receive EX. A promise to at least LoC will be sufficient to get a copy, if such promise is made in the form of a letter to Len or E. W. think EX is worth staying with, and we hope you do, too.

WHO
KNOWS WHAT
EVIL
CURKS WITHIN
THE HEARTS OF

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MAILING COMMENTS

This isn't the easiest layout to try to use let me tell you, but I figure that it will ultimately give me keen satisfaction, since I can't remember the last time I saw this one carried out in good style.

Maybe I will go down in N'APA history as the only fan to try this layout and live. It will, I predict, rank with my highly unusual upside down layout which was used exclusively in N'APA in MEOW last quarter.

NIEKAS #11*Ed and Felice

ED: I croggle at the image of Riley and Clifton exchanging their Hugo on a yearly basis. In fact it is one of the most revolting pictures any fan has come up with since the B---d----- Shane, shame, shame, Ed Meskys.

I see that you didn't include me as one of the fans you met at the White Pary. I guess I ca n't expect you to remember everyone.

I found the article about SF in Libraries interesting. I've noticed the same thing at most libraries, but in Great Neck the situation seems to be somewhat better. Although the Library I frequent is one of the smaller branches, they usually buy a couple of SF titles a month, or occasionally even more. Besides the Norton juveniles, they go in for collections. They buy the F+SF, Galaxy, Analog, Spectrum, and Merrils anthologies.

I think the reason most libraries shy away from paperbacks is that one moderately careless reader can ruin a pb beyond salvaging. The prejudice against the spft covers is breaking down, especially in school libraries. Large sized soft bound books are being bought in large numbers where no hardcover is available. I think it will be a while before the pocket sized editions are purchased by Libraries. I suspect that when they finally are available for loan, they will probably be loaned out the way many libraries loan records; so much a day, and a fine for damage.

Felice: Ah, you soft living Californians! You saw a birdie on the first day of spring, and I saw about four inches of snow. Maybe if I keep watching I'll see a polar bear, which would be better than a bird.

RACHE #17*Bruce

See, Len and I are trying to do our little bit to make your Library of Fandom interesting, switching apas with EX. If SAPS resonse is what I expect, it probably won't stay there long either. EX has about 80-100 outside circulation, so I think it qualify as a genzine.

If you want to look at the results of the last OElection in a different light; on the basis of percenta ge of improvement, then I think you'll find that I did significantly better than you did. In fact I scored a decisive victory. You were, however, so noble in defeat that I've decided to vote for you next year. In fact, I may campaign Vigercously in your behalf. I hope that doesn't lose you too many votes. Pelz for OE, Pxt an CElephant on your team;

How cruel. You mean you still consider me a neofan. Oh well, maybe by next year.....

If we lost our Grand Old Man, Roy Tackett, I think it's fairly obvious what we would do for Stability, Presteige, or Status. We'd

elect BEP OE.

Glad you liked the line about Len's typer. He has a newer one which works. I suppose he could still rename the old one "Jack", but it would be a waste of time.

I can see Stan Woolston as he approaches Fred P and says, cheerily, "I've decided to let you rub off the next issue of SB, Fred!" It's all a clever plot by you to do in the NFE by doing in the Beloved Prexy. It would also accomplish the seemingly impossible feat of getting the N'APA mailings out on time. Fred would have a lot of time in his cell to get things ready.

SPINA #5-Creath

I found your five stages of fan publishing Thought Provoking, to coin a phrase. I don't think you are going about the thing from the right direction. I think you are mistaking a diversity of interests for a progression. True, you get out of being pinned down by saying that some fans skip phases or remain in one phase throughout their fanish careers. Still, I think I've got a progression that is a little more general.

1. The Rank Neofan Stage

The neofan is introduced to fandom and fanzines. If he begins to publish in this stage, he usually apes the prozines in format and content. The rank neofan usually has an inflated idea of the worth of his zines and his writing in relation to the rest of fandom.

2. The Middle Neofan Stage

After having his first few zines panned to a greater or lesser extent, the Middle Neofan more or less begins to lose the overly high opinion of himself characteristic of the Rank Neofan. If the Middle Neofan is at an impressionable age, say younger than 20, he picks out one or two established fans on whom he models himself. This is probably the stage which separates the actifen from the fringerfen. Most future actifen types will become rabid joiners during this stage.

3. Late Neofan Stage

This stage is characterized by the lessening of the influence of the neo's idol(s) as he begins to receive more of the better zines. He usually begins to resent being called a neofan.

4. The fan Stage,

The stage in which the general image of the fan is set, and in which he gets into some of the aps he got on the wl for in the last stage.

5. Well Known Fan Stage

For one reason or another, the fan is now widely known in fandom. This does not necessarily have to be because he is such a good writer; he is just known.

5-B Big Name Fan Stage

If aa-wkf becomes widely known for his good works over a reasonable length of time, he may move into this stage. he is given respect by his peers and sometimes awe among the neofen if he is a

sufficiently big BNF

7. GAFIA

The stage is reached when a fan:

1. Has nothing more to say
2. Finds the hobby is no longer stimulating
3. is carried away by a Greater Passion
4. feels he needs a change
5. finds that his character has changed to such an extent that he can no longer derive enjoyment from Fandom
6. is forced to give up fandom due to pressures of his non-fannish existence.
7. discovers, in a flash of realization, that fans look down upon him
8. dies

Naturally, I don't claim perfection for this idea, but I think it's pretty good for the actifen, if not other types of fans.

I thought your N3F welcommittee letter quite funny. Especially since I recognise a sentence or two, the relatively innocuous ones, thank Ghod, as being typical of what I might have written as a neo-fan on the WC. There have been some real Winners working for the Bureau, but there have also been some very interesting and rather charming folks like Leah Labowitz. You forgot to start it with the sentence, "Welcome to the N3F!!!!", which is on just about every letter I can ever remember seeing.

Creath, that's the nicest thing anyone has said to me in a fanzine since I can't remember when. I mean where you say I'll be another Willis by the time I'm 21. If I could be as good a writer in my own way of course, as he is, that's about all I could possibly want in fandom.

THEOREM #2-A1

For a first major effort this isn't too bad. Still some stuff that isn't too good, like the fillers and the "humor" of Sam, but a good effort nonetheless. Lon is, if I am to use his CLERGES as a standard, uncommonly verbose in his book reviews. A simplified style, more like his stuff in SPPA would have gone over better, I think. A propos of the reviews, Honest Dick Lupoff said that the manuscript for Tarzan and the Madman was found on ERB's desk, and I tend to believe Dick.

No, Al, Mad Ave, isn't going to my head; I just seem to be the Official Sloganeer of the Fanoclasts. Some of the ones I've come up with (ie Send a Carr by Plane) are rather obvious, but I usually think of them before anyone else. I'm not sure what that NYCon III slogan was brought on by, but I do hope that all Right Thinking Responsible Trufen will vote for NYCon III. I've been taking lessons from Pushy....

Since th main humor in the Caper is puns and swifties, it isn't too surprising that it isn't very subtle. Of course, it does surprise me that you got all that Existencalist philosophy so easily.

BYZANTIUM #2@John+ *A** P**RICK

John, I just figured out a way to improve the last issue of BYZ some 37½%. It might also decrease the N'APA wl by one, too.

Seems that you have thoughts on GEMZINE parallel to mine. When I first encountered GZ, I thought it was great. After about three issues, my interest began to fade, until I have to force myself to read it now. I also think Gem's mcs are overrated! She doesn't read the zines she mcs carefully enough to tell whether they are even N'APAZines or who the writers and editors are. I suppose I belong to small N'APA minorities on both points. It's purely a matter of taste.

I wasn't saying the Pete Jackson wasn't a neofan par excellence. I was angry at Roy, who is an old and tired fan who should know better, for picking on a kid whose main problem was typical neofannish ignorance. That was quite a welcome he gave poor Pete. I might include Art Hayes in as a Shameful Scoundrel, because he reprinted Pete's worse piece of fuggheadedness, the Fandkm Money bit. However, I think that Art sincerely thought the idea was meritorious, which doesn't say too much for him, I'm afraid.

That Haiku you wrote in the mc on Meow Troubles Me -greatly-. Who is Quisling? Is he a SAPSite I've been overlooking all this time? I'll have to go out and recruit him for the N3F as soon as I finish this zine.

I agree, the fifteenth N'APA mailing was the low point, even though the reaction to that mailing, mailing 16, should be close to it. I meant the 15th when I wrote the article, but I misremembered the mailing number Blob's little blast appeared in.

Thanks for going to the trouble of continuing the N'APA numbering system. Too bad Fred fouled it up this mailing by not giving the new members numbers. Why don't you continue as Official Number Giver?

Well, fellow N'APAhS, do I or don't I? Do I ignore six sick pages in search of inanity, or do I provide N'APA with a *Show*? On the one hand, Dave isn't going to listen to what anyone tells him. He has His Own Ideas, and, though they may have no factual basis anywhere but in his mind, he isn't going to allow any knowledge to creep into his brain. You can bet on that. Why, if Dave ever learned anything from observation, it might confuse his closed little mind. It certainly is a sad thing when a boy as young as Dave is sure that he knows it all. He is the only person I can think of who could be a fan for two years and still have no understanding of what's happening in the microcosm. Fandom, in this case, is merely used as an example of his monumental lack of perception.

I suppose that, whatever I wanted to do originally, I have laughed myself into the task of taking Dave down a couple of pegs. Keep in my that I have been hearing similar garbage from Dave for two years, and try to bear with me.

First, in view of the fact that John warned me in BYZ of your impending idiocy, I think I should mention that Hohn didn't go all the way and warn me in a letter. The article in the last Meow was done without the foreknowledge that you would supply such a beautiful illustration of the New Waver at work in the very same mailing. Perhaps the article itself, if you were observant enough to apply it to your pages in BYZ #2 would be ample refutation of your ravings. My opinion of your intelligence is such that I doubt that you made any such connection.

OF NAMING FANZINES

I would feel myself abler to refute your arguements if

they had been stated in more specific terms. For example, I don't see how the name of a fanzine can add to the appearance of that fanzine. The way the name is stenciled can add to the appearance. That is, a Steve Stiles heading looks much nicer than just typing the title, but what the name itself can have to do with the appearance is beyond me.

I do agree with one thing you say. Assuming the title is written large enough, it is probably the first thing a fan who get that fanzine sees. I'm not sure what this very obvious fact is supposed to have to do with anything.

Although it may have escaped your notice in your two year stay in fandom, fanzines are a hobby, not a commercial venture. A faned distributes his fanzines more or less for free, and so it is not recumbant upon him to cater to the whims of the readers in regard to choice of names. To a newsstand publication, which is placed on the same rack as perhaps 50 other magazines of various types, a name can mean the difference between success and bankruptcy. Because the professional magazines are published to make money, they must attract the reader with every possible means. They must have a name which the casual magazine stand browser will identify immediately with a particular field or type of magazine. It was for this reason that Z-D rejected the idea of renaming AMAZING SPECULATION, which could just as easily be the name of a stock investment periodical. Fanzines, aren't sold on newsstands, and thus are not subject to the same rules as a commercial newsstand publication. The faned, to reinterate, is a hobbyist, and as long as his material is mailible may do whatever he wishes. If the quality of the material in his fanzine is bad, fans will shunt it aside for an idle moment rather than plunging in as soon as the postman brings it. Since fandom is a people to people rather than a magazine to people relationship, each fanzine is identified more by its editor and writer(s). Every active fanzine fan is typed by the other fan

according to his talents as a writer, editor, artist, or some combination of all three. You could put out a fanzine with a name I might consider to be absolutely great, but once I scanned the contents page, the name would be as nothing. The only significance a fanzine name really gets is that it is linked with the person who uses it. I'd wager that most fans could tell you the name of the editor of every fanzine he receives without blinking an eye. The name, in short, really doesn't mean anything. It's the fan who stands behind that name that makes the difference. If I want to call a fanzine EXCELSIOR because I admire Jean Sheperd or MEOW because my name is Katz, that is my right and my privilege. If you want to think up names that you think are Highly Significant, that's your right, too. But don't come around telling others that you are going to be the judge over whether the name of their fanzine is significant enough.

O F

COVERS

No one is trying to use a cover to "sell" a fanzine. There is no need to tempt the reader with the cover into buying, since he already owns the zine by the time he sees the cover. While the quality of the cover art may influence the reader's opinion of the zine, the subject matter would seem to be the choice of the editor and artist acting in concert. The cover has to be one that the editor likes, which goes for the entire contents of the zine. I think your little hen scratchings are miserable, but if you're satisfied with them, then that's your business.

Most of the art I use comes from Joe Staton. I like his art, and he seems to like drawing for my zines. Since he's also a pretty good friend, he has a fair idea of what I like as far as subject matter goes. He sends me the art, and if I like it, and I usually do, I use it. Andy Porter, when he wants to do some art for my zines, lets me look through his portfolio till I find some stuff I like. That's how the art for my zines is selected, and I'd wager the procedure is the same for virtually all fanzines. Of course, if you are doing a specialty fanzine, you probably will tend to pick art which corresponds to the written material, but again, it is quality that matters. I like well drawn nekkid ladies. I will not use such a drawing, however, unless I feel it has artistic merit. I concede the right of any reader to say whatever he wants to about the quality of the art, but I will choose the subject matter for my zines and you for yours. I publish to meet my standards, and not to please Dave Patrick.

O F CRUD WRITING

You called it "Crud Writing", which isn't as new a term as you think it is. In fact, I've noticed those two words occurring linked with your name on more than one occasion (ie Patrick writes crap), however, I prefer the term "Crud", which while being a euphemism is the standard fanspeak term.

Actually, if you want to see some really bad writing, I advise you to look at the two paragraphs in which you castigate Mr. Arnie Katz for the supposed sin of "crap writing." They contain more faults in construction and more ill chosen words than anyone past 10th grade has the right to have in a whole paper which is supposedly at least second draft. And you style yourself a writer? Still, it is not necessary for you to write well yourself in order to have the right to criticize my writing. That is indeed fortunate for you, and for me too, if you can actually say something that might help me.

If I should single out something in one of my fanzines as being bad, I do not do so idly, even if I laugh at myself a little in the process. I have two qualities which you seem to lack, Dave; the ability to laugh at myself and the faculty of self-criticism. I am never truly satisfied with anything I do. Although I have enjoyed some of my own writings hugely, I still push onward towards the goal of better writing. Likewise, I want to publish the very best fanzine of which I am capable. If the repro isn't good, I'm the first one to say so. Likewise, I've expressed dissatisfaction with my art stenciling. Possibly it's due to my eyesight, but the fact remains that I will try to use only prestenciled art from now on, in order to do it justice. I have thrown away many stencils with art on them because I felt that the stenciling job I did wasn't good enough. I don't want someone to tell me that my repro is Just Peachy when it isn't. When it was bad, I consistently asked for tips to help me improve. I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't project your own inability to look at anything, much less yourself, with a modicum of objectivity. For example, I would disagree very strongly with your assertion that there has been no improvement in the repro of my fanzines. I think there has been great improvement.

Next we come to your brilliant analysis of the pun serial. You just say it's Crap, and let it go at that. I don't think that is quite what I expected in the way of Mature Criticism. The Caper is not Great Art, and it isn't intended to be. I wanted to write a topical N'APA slanted story with a lot of little humorous bits in it, and I think I've succeeded fairly well. I've also used the story to

try out some experimental writing techniques, the success of which is shown by the fact that Len has drawn upon them for the latest chapter of Grey Fansman.

Since you are bandying about the term "Crap Writing", I think that things ought to be placed in their proper perspective. We have a handy gauge of reader opinion in the just finished Egg-boo Poll. It would be grossly unfair of me to point out that I amassed five times the number of points you did, because I had much more material in the mailings. HOWEVER, you had more fiction in N'APA than any other fan, You had at least three long stories in John's zines, and maybe some others on which I don't have the mailings with me to check. I had one story 'way back in the March 64 mailing, one in the September mailing, and two chapters of the pun serial, neither of which were very long. A quick check of the voters shows that at least three or four didn't have the March mailing which you had no material in, and in which I had about my best piece of fiction. This increases the odds in your favor a little bit more. Anyway, my point total was three times your point total in this category. Someone is a Crap Writer and someone is writing fairly enjoyable fiction.

I've already commented on my huge surplus of material elsewhere, which makes your remark about me sitting down at the typer to fill up the quota with a minimum of effort (those were your words, substancially) seem silly.

I have a lot more to say to you, including an analysis of your story, but I've wasted more than enough space on you, little kid.

NATTERJACK #5-Len

You mean it's your second anniversary don't you? I'd hate to think you were holding out on me for a whole year, and then played dumb when we made our first contact with fandom.

I'm not sure what exactly would happen if we collaborated on a story, but we really ought to try it some time. Fandom might never recover.

You know what I like about you, Len, you've become an Arnie Katz fan. You like my stuff almost as much as I do. It's all right, though, I'm a Len Bailes fan.

Although I can't think of any comments on it, I do like the story, and I may even allow mine to cease uncompleted, even though a chapter is already completed.

FANTASY Neo #1-Steve

Hello there writer of nasty letters that nice people don't save to hold over their heads at some future date. Not taking back what I said to *A** P**Rick about titles, have you thought of calling this NEO FANTasy? I'll bet you avoided the pun purposely, so see how many of us would suggest it.

Steve, isn't it a little early in the game to make blanket statements about what you'll read and what you won't. I don't see how you can say "I won't read any fiction" without having sampled some of the better stuff. Amateur SF, though I have written it occasionally, is usually not too good. Faan fiction is something else again. Some of the foremost classics of fan writing have been faan fiction. Have you tried The Enchanted Dupkicator, Cacher of the Rye, BNF of Iz, Alice in Blunderland, or the Gocn Stories? I think you're making a mistake in deciding not to read faan fiction until you've sampled some of these. You really are missing some real enjoyment, you know.

INFERNAL AVENUES #3-John B

If there are 21 N'APAns out there who would like to see N'APA separated from the N3F, I will show you how it's done without contravening any of the rules that have been set up to cover the situation.

I really have a lot more mcs that I want to make, but I also don't want to go beyond this stencil. Instead of trying to cram in a lot of little snippets, I'll just say hi to the good people, and some not so good people, whose zines I just didn't get around to saying anything about in here

I surely thought I'd be able to fit in complete mcs, but things just got out of hand. See all of you next quarter.-A the K