

NOTES FROM ARINAM

AKA FAPA MCs and done with the expectation that these will appear in the 172 FAPA mailing and they'd better or I'm in trouble. Speer suggested a month or so ago that I read the mailing and, horrors, I discovered I owe a page plus dues. The dues I can manage. The page...I'll give it a go.
Boy Backett, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

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A Marinated Pub. X

WHAT THE DORMOUSE SAID 7: In re: your comments on STARFIRE. There are, of course, two ways of divining the future. (I should have said "of predicting the future" for "divining" itself is a semantically loaded word.) One can use either magic or science. In my experience, by observing assorted card readers, astrologers, and various other soothsayers, magic doesn't work worth a damn. Science, however, comes out more often right than it does wrong and when it does come out wrong it is usually because the experimenter screwed up. Magicians can say the same thing, of course: they got the spell wrong.

It is, of course, fruitless to try to enter into a logical discussion with a believing Xian because he KNOWS. My usual counter in the case of creation vs evolution--or whatever--is which creation myth do we accept and teach. Is the Xian willing to accept the Navajo story of Creation? The Norse? The Greek? The Zulu?

Your line that "The latest Blondie album features a couple of tracks written by Harry Harrison." somewhat mystifies me. What?

SAGEBRUSH, SADDLES & SIXSHOOTERS: really tells me more than I am interested in knowing about Hopalong Cassidy. Now if you had done this much research on, say, Louis Wu or someone of that ilk I might have enjoyed it.

DAMBALLA 40: Very nice cover, Chuck. Some of the latest speculation on the great extinction of the dinosaurs is, you know, that Earth was clobbered by a very large meteor which raised such vast clouds of dust that the sunlight was cut off thereby cooling the planet to the place where the thunder lizards could no longer exist either through the effects of the cold on themselves or on the vegetation.

If Miller can get credit for Hopalong Cassidy I see no reason why a paper on "Poisons in the Canon" should not be acceptable in FAPA and, egad!, of interest, too.

By the way, you (and HELEN WESSON and other Sherlockians) may or may not be interested in THE CASE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS' RING, a Holmesian pastiche by Randall Collins. In this one Holmes clashes with Aleister Crowley and the assortment of characters includes Ludwig Wittgenstein, Bertrand Russell, John Maynard Keynes, Annie Besant and other real life characters.

Collins plays fast and loose with the lives of his real (but dead) characters and with the Canon. For ex-

ample, he has Holmes and Watson living at Baker Street in 1914 and suggests that the drug Holmes used was morphine rather than cocaine. (On the grounds that cocaine is non-addictive...I'll have to pass on that as I don't know.) Drugs play an important part in this story. I found rather amusing a passage in which Holmes and Watson encounter Arthur Conan Doyle and Watson comments on the strained tone of that meeting. Holmes replies: "We are relatives, after a fashion. But I have left his house long ago, and my career in the world is now my own business. There is no point in trying to pass backward over that gulf."

IMHO it isn't a very good Holmes story.

My dear Chuck, I question your statement about "normal human respect for the law." There is fear of the law but I do not believe there is respect. The law, after all, is proclaimed by some gangster who sets himself up as king or president or dictator and tells the rest of us that either we obey the law or he will kill us. ((Feminists can make that "she" and use Indira Ghandi for their model.)) In these enlightened times John and Jane are talked into electing their "choice" of authority but the threat is the same. True, for disobeying minor points of the law the penalty is that authority will take your money or your property and incarcerate you for some length of time but the threat that authority can kill you is still there. That's why cops carry guns. The law is not proclaimed to be respected; it is to be feared and obeyed.

I would have to agree with you that THE THING was not WHO GOES THERE? but even so it was above average as science fiction movies of that period go. The monster itself was secondary to the human interplay in the picture. Admitted that I was disappointed when I first saw it but a couple of more objective viewings have raised its rating for me. When I think of it now I consider it by its own title, not as Campbell's story.

I'd like to see WHO GOES THERE? made into a movie someday.

SAMBO 30: The Wellsian message may well have slowed down the action in THINGS TO COME but it is a message that is worth remembering and still applies...even more so today.

THE HOG ON ICE 9: In your comments on Drake's THE PREDATORS you complain that there is no justice, moral or poetic, but only gratuitous violence in the quoted passage. I would say that is what makes the passage realistic. "Justice" is an artificial and abstract concept which has no real place in nature or society. "There ain't no justice" said Louis Wu. He gets credit for that although it isn't original with him. Tanj.

GRANDFATHER STORIES: And so it comes to a choice between Detroit and Chicago for 1982? For me that is just academic information since I doubt that I'll be in attendance no matter where it is held. But the thought crosses my mind, considering the municipal strike there in Detroit with the Goppers coming to town and all....do you suppose the garbage men will go out in 1982 when they get the word that the science-fictionists are coming to town? Nah, a stfoon isn't nearly as large publicitywise--as they say--as a polcon. Owell.

DRIVEL 2: I tend to ignore all learned theories of motivation. There is just one basic motivation for all of us: SURVIVE! To be sure that comes in various levels: self, family, clan, species, but it is the basic.

I would disagree, M. David, about the degree of parental discipline in more primitive cultures. On the whole parents are much more lenient in those cultures. Children get plenty of discipline through tribal superstitions and taboos but the parent's hand is seldom raised.

YHOS 17: I think I would go along with the idea of having military costs listed in red on paycheck deduction slips. How about having welfare costs listed in blue? That would match the way I feel when I think about them.

FM in your area may offer a wider range but here we have one classical music station, one "beautiful music" station (O!), one university station which is "freeform" and NPR (and sometimes rather startling as when it broadcast a composition titled "Music on a long, thin wire" for five days without interruption) and eight or nine rock stations all of which seem to share one record between them. I do not voluntarily listen to radio much in Albuquerque...it is mostly noise.

New York style chili??? You jest, señor.

The USofA guvvinint, presumably following the dictates of OSHA or OSHA or whatever has installed wire catchers around all the fluorescent fixtures at Kirtland Air Force Base so that if a tube (new improved 35 watts) does somehow manage to detach itself from the fixture it will not crash to the ~~deck~~ floor and shatter thereby spilling minute quantities of horrendous chemicals over all and sundry. (Sgt All and Captain Sundry, the USAF equivalent of Moe and Larry...Curly quit.)

Is Fulton Lewis Jr still alive? Or is this a new one following in the footsteps of the commentator of...what...35-40 years ago? Not that it really matters.

SPECAPA COMMENTATOR: Pay no attention to those giggles, M. David. Fandom is literally crawling with duly licensed and ordained ministers. Or crawling, even. ((It is not, Art Widner, that I do not realize that typos are made. It is that I am too lazy to reach for the corflu)) Why, shuckins, man, I've been an ordained minister for lo, these many years. Universal Life Church, to save you the trouble of asking. Why, I wonder, would a fan be hesitant to admit his connection with fandom to his christian friends? Or Jewish friends? Or Islamic friends? Or Wiccan friends? Et cetera.

FLOCCIPAUWHATEVER: In Bernalillo County, New Mexico, which is, in regard to this particular subject, the only place of which I have any certain knowledge, the lists of prospective jurors are drawn from the rolls of registered voters. Or so they say. I have no idea how the selection is made. I was called for jury duty about eight years ago but Chrystal has never been called. One would think that being right next to each other on the voting list her name would also have been picked. Maybe Judge Speer can enlighten us on the mechanics of it all. Mysterious are the ways....

I don't see why you folks north of the U.S. should worry about US immigration regulations...the folks from south of the U.S. certainly don't.

Mike's recounting of FAPAns he knows sent me to the roster. There are now 29 members whom I have never met. The number seems to be growing. Worse yet there are five names on the roster which, outside of being in FAPA, ring no bells whatsoever. I'm going to have to pull myself back in off the rim one of these days.

HORIZONS: One solution for your squirrel problem, Harry, would be to attend Bubonicon and take back with you some of the local rodent population. The local public health types almost went starkies when a check indicated that plague now sits on the city limits in the north-east heights. What is even more bothersome, of course, is that the two deaths from plague so far this year have been from the pneumonic form.

Plague these days is a long way from the Black Death and those who contact the bubonic form are cured by anti-biotics. The pneumonic form is a bit more scary. Bubonic plague requires the bite of the flea; pneumonic can spread through the air. The various forms of government here spend large sums spreading flea powder over the wilderness.

We nicknamed the New Mexico SF Conference "Bubonicon" in jest some years back when plague was more or less confined to the northwest corner of the state. Now that it is on the very outskirts of Albuquerque...it is even more appropriate, no? Si.

I have probably mentioned this before but since you were writing on temperature comparisons...one of the more surprising things to come out of Chrystal's research into gardening here is that Albuquerque is in the same growing zone as Boston. (Although we are, egad!, considerably drier.) It made it easy for Chrys to follow the advice of Jim Crockett when he was alive and doing "Victory Garden" on PBS. When Crockett said he was planting a certain vegetable Chrys would also plant it. Worked out well.

It could be that the overall increase in noise level has led to a general decrease in hearing ability...physical decrease, that is. It could be, too, that the increase in noise level simply drowns out distant sounds. Unless we actually stop to listen to it we seldom realize just how noisy our environment is; for most of us it is there in the background and we ignore it. Getting away from the city and into the mountains I find that I hear things that it is not possible to hear in the urban environment. The 18th and 19th centuries did not have, I should think, the background noise to which we have become accustomed. (And wasn't there a stfyarn about someone from the past being brought up to the 20th Century and being simply deafened by the noise we don't hear?) My biggest problem is ignoring the constant ringing in my ears which, a member of the medical business told me, was due to damage caused by exposure to loud noises in earlier days. Not to mention loud noises.

And I do seem to have managed four pages. Now if I can get them run off and in the mail to BEP I shall have it made. The mimeo is somewhere over there in the corner under that pile of dust and books. Sorry that this isn't something better but, alas, FAPAns have learned not to expect anything better from me. Someday maybe.....