

The Passing Parade No. 4

THE PASSING PARADE #4

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Cover by Bea Barrio. Mimeography by Golds of California. August 1973.

EGO-TRIPPING THROUGH THE TULIPS

-The continuing narrative of Milt Stevens
and his progress through this world.

All Through The Night

During the early part of this year, I found myself with a new computer pigging assignment. We had figured out a way of getting crime data into our computer in less than twenty-four hours and we wanted to see if this would help in deploying patrol cars. The idea was to look for variances in the normal crime patterns which would suggest that an individual or individuals had started working an area. This all sounded fine, but in order to get full value out of the twenty-four hour data I had to show up at 5 a.m. seven days a week. This meant that if I went to bed at all during the night I had to get up at 3:30. This schedule was really not a whole bunch of fun. You may note the dilatory effect which this schedule had on my fanac in that the February issue of Passing Parade was late and the May issue didn't make it at all. The situation didn't do too much for my social life either.

Despite the fact that the world was getting to look a little unreal around the edges, I was having a fair amount of success at the division where I was working. I was mainly catching burglars who were either heroin addicts or juveniles. Both groups are fairly easy to track for different reasons. The addicts have to work every day of the week so you have a lot of data to work with and the juveniles work in a limited geographic area which makes for a tight pattern.

Our project has been operating against a political background of turmoil all during the year. Various non-spiritual forces have been clanking the chain of command all over the place. We've had two different division commanders, two project leaders and three assistant project leaders in the period of six months. So one day two of the policemen on the project informed me that I should stand by to take a little heat. It seemed that the project leader had been wondering who might be responsible for the things which had been going wrong with the project and he had decided it was me. Forewarned, I naturally prepared a complete alibi for everything I'd been doing lately. It didn't do me any good, since the project leader had already decided to remove me as a terminal operator before he talked to me. Some of the specific criticisms were that I was coldly logical, unfriendly, and menacing to policemen. I don't mind being thought of as coldly logical and how friendly could a person be when he arrives at work at 5 a.m.? Being menacing to policemen is a thought to ponder. I don't really know whether it's better or worse than frightening puppies and small children. Maybe I could rent myself out to haunt houses?

So aside from a couple consultant type jobs, I haven't been doing a great deal at work in the last couple months. Mainly I've been killing time by reading

a bunch of science fiction novels. Things have been so slow that I had enough time to read Stand on Zanzibar. Yeah, things have really been that slow.

Yes We Have No Deathrays

While lounging around at System Development Corporation, I found myself face to face with a real live maniac. I don't mean someone who is a little odd; I mean the head duck at the funny farm. This maniac has been lurking around our project for about six months now. He first became evident when the marshals' vehicles down at the county courthouse began to have bricks thrown through their windows. Each brick had a note attached which read, "Broken Window? Call Sergeant Bob Kenney, Systems Development Corporation, 2600 Colorado Blvd." Obviously someone was trying to call attention to our project leader Bob Kenney and Kenney was somewhat concerned as to whom that might be. He found out about two months later when the maniac in question turned himself in. The maniac was a former (or maybe once and future) mental patient who believed that LAPD was building a deathray with which we were going to kill the women in Corona Prison. I don't know why we would particularly want to do that, but I guess it just seemed like the piggish thing to do.

Unfortunately, there is no law against being crazy in this state, so our maniac was out on the loose again almost instantly. By now he is convinced that we are not only building a deathray but also using holographs for some undisclosed but undoubtedly foul purpose. I didn't really have any intention of meeting the man, but the security guards at SDC called me one day and said that there was a man waiting to see our new project leader. Since the project leader wasn't around, I went down to the lobby to talk to the man. It was only after talking to him for a couple minutes that I realized who I was talking to. The drift of his conversation was that he wanted to volunteer as a guinea pig for our deathray. He had prior experience since they had shot many rays through him back at the mental hospital. While he was talking, I found myself thinking that he was awfully short for a maniac. I always expected maniacs to be more than five feet even. Maybe it was all those rays they shot through him. In any case, the last I saw of him was as he was being led down a corridor by the SDC security people. By now he may be only four foot six.

The Issue In Hand

You may notice that Astrid Anderson is featured on the cover this issue. In my usual manner of soliciting artwork, I asked Bea Barrio to do a cover for my next issue.

"Yeah," she mumbled, "That would be The Passion Parade #4."

For a moment I feared that maybe Mike Glycer and I had thumped Bea on the head once too often while extorting artwork. I explained very slowly that my title was "The Passing Parade" not "The Passion Parade." You can see the results for yourself. I like the cover. Aside from it being a topless sketch of Astrid, I like the way the hair has been converted into a design to go along with the necklace. The choice of expressions is also a good one for the character being portrayed.

If you continue your precipitous course through this fanzine, you will encounter some more material by and about Ted White. I'm beginning to think that the worst thing about feuding with Ted White is the way he clutters up a fanzine. So far, Norm Hochberg is the only letter writer to have mentioned that Ted White and I are not likely to change our opinions. That is quite true. The entire interchange is essentially pointless and I'm not a great fan of pointlessness. Even though I would still be delighted to see Ted White drown in his own excrement, I considered dropping the matter in Passing Parade. I mentioned this thought to a couple friends and I immediately received three offers to conduct fued columns in other fanzines. Who am I to deny fans entertainment?

Of course, that was before the appearance of the August Amazing. I'm rather a featured character in the editorial of that issue. I have mixed feelings about the editorial. Multi-copy assault is not a ploy I can effectively counter with the resources of any fanzine which is available to me. For that reason, I called Sol Cohen and suggested that the editorial columns in his magazines should not be used for attacks on persons and organizations in fandom. I pointed out that I had been libelled in the August Amazing and while I had no immediate intentions of suing him, I assured him that someone would sue him if Ted White's attacks continued. Whether that someone is me or another person depends on the nature of the attack, but I in no way waived my rights to sue on the basis of the editorial in the August Amazing.

In some ways, that editorial may have been to my benefit within the context of fandom. For one thing, taking a fanzine fued into a prozine is conspicuously unsporting and not the action of a man who thought he had the stronger case. Secondly, I have been maintaining that Ted's convention editorials were motivated by personal rather than idealistic motives. This is simply a more obvious example of the sort of thing Ted White does. There is more material on the matter later in the issue.

The only definite idea I have for the next issue is an article on the first and last issues of Planet Stories. See, I do talk about science fiction every now and then. I might try a few comments on Stand on Zanzibar. After reading that many pages, I certainly should have something to say about it.

Conventions

By this point in time, it appears that Toronto has succeeded in separating the NASFIC from the world science fiction conventions. Our last attempt to reverse that decision was to contact Jay Haldeman to see if he would hold a NASFIC election after the Torcon business session. That is something Haldeman could legally do, but he declined to do so. Haldeman intends to take the worldcon rules exactly as he finds them no matter what.

While we were still conferring with Haldeman, Jack Chalker volunteered to organize a NASFIC election at Torcon. This seems a likely solution. I'm not sure of the exact details as yet, but voting will be restricted to people who have bought advance memberships in the NASFIC. Pelz and Associates (that's us) are still bidding for the Marriott Hotel for Labor Day Weekend 1975. Note that is not the same weekend on which the Australians would hold their worldcon. I still have no information on Chuck Crayne's committee or hotel arrangements and have not heard of any other bids.

LASFS IN PICTURES

It has often been mentioned that most people like to look at pictures. Accepting this as a premise, I acquired enough extra copies of the recent Apa L photocover to run through Passing Parade. This photocover contains pictures of the people who have been most active in Apa L and/or LASFS during the last couple years. Since a fair number of the people represented have been active in general fandom, I thought that the pictures would be of some interest to outsiders.

You may notice that there are a number of well known Los Angeles fans who are not represented. This is because they haven't been active in either LASFS or Apa L recently. Aside from The LASFS, there are two other fan organizations in Los Angeles, The Petards and the Mythopoeic Society. The Petards is an invitational; social type club which includes people like Dave Locke, Tina Hensel, Ed Cox, Dean Grennell, Don Fitch, Stan Woolston, The Moffatts, The Nivens, and various other people. Dave Locke's fanzine Awry has been getting almost all of its material from The Petards. The Mythopoeic Society is a sercon fantasy discussion group with about half a dozen chapters in the Los Angeles area. This group developed independently of fandom, so it seems quite a bit different from other fan organizations. The most notable difference is a complete lack of fannishness. Dave Hulan is one well known fan who has defected to the Mythopoeic Society and become an avid dwarf dancer. It just occurred to me that I'm the only person in Los Angeles who is a member of all three organizations. I guess I just have above average ability to get my foot in things. At the other end of the scale, there are some fans who aren't active in any of the three groups. These include John and Bjo Trimble, Elmer Perdue, Tim Kirk, and Alicia Austin.

After I had decided to run this photocover through Passing Parade, I became interested in photocovers which have been run on fanzines in the past. The earliest one I can find appeared on Vom #23 June 1942. This appeared five months before I was born and I was somewhat surprised to find that I had met 13 of the 36 fans who were pictured. There are four others who are still around, but who I haven't met. The average fan may last only three years, but those who last longer tend to last a lot longer. Len Moffatt, Roy Tackett, and Elmer Perdue are three current FAPA members who were pictured on that 1942 cover. Damon Knight was also pictured, but back then his only claim to fame was as founder of the NFFF. John Hillard and Ed Connor were also pictured, and I didn't realize either of them had been in fandom that long. Connor was listed as "ECCO" on the cover and I had to hunt around in Forrie Ackerman's damn near unreadable text to discover that this was an E. C. Connor of Peoria. I then checked to see where Moebius Trip comes from and it also comes from Peoria. Sounds like a pretty good circumstantial case that it's the same fellow.

The next photocover I unearthed was on Polarity #3 October 1958 from F.M. and Elinor Busby. The pictures were taken at the Solacon that year. Terry Carr, Rich Brown, and Ted Johnstone all look decidedly too young to get in a bar. I must say that Terry Carr is a heck of a lot better looking today than he was fifteen years ago. In the same fifteen years, Bob Silverberg has become much more sinister looking. The Busbys, Bill Rotsler, Jack Harness, Bob Pavlat, and Elmer Perdue really haven't changed all that much in the same time period.

In the last ten years, photographic memorabilia has become much more common. There have been several of Jay Kay Klein's convention photobooks, the LASFS photo album, and numerous photo pages in various fanzines. Fans of the future will have a much more complete record of fandom after 1960 than exists for any period before that time. Since there seems to be an increasing number of fan history bugs, this should give them plenty to feed on.

So I will commence to try explaining who all these people are and what they do (within the limits of decency, of course). Listings are from top to bottom, left to right.

FIRST PAGE

Line One

#1 Matthew Tepper, musician and Asimov indexer. In the past, Matthew and I have had what might be referred to as strong disagreements. These get referred to in print every now and then, but things seem to have calmed down by now.

#2 Joe Minne, local clubfan. Swims upstream weekly to play LASFS poker.

#3 Ed Green, professional neofan. During his ten year career as a neofan, Ed has introduced a new sense of professionalism which has previously been unknown in the field of neoism.

#4 Mike Glycer, the Goliath of the fanzines. Editor of Prehensile, Mike is a publishing giant what are a Publishing Giant. His avocations include meeting people who have disagreed with him in print and ripping Volkswagens in half.

#5 Tom Collins, editor of the dreadnought class fanzine Is. Tom doesn't live in Los Angeles, but he participates in Apa L from such unlikely spots as the Arctic Circle and the wilds of Indiana.

#6 Don Fitch, multi-apan, gardening fan, and Indian enthusiast. In recent years, Don has been skipping science fiction conventions in order to attend Indian pow-wows. He is noted for having scalped fifteen settlers in downtown Covina. In apa fandom, Don is well known for his ability to discuss all three sides of any issue with such thoroughness that you have to spend two hours thinking of a mailing comment.

Line Two

#1 Beverly Warren, Beverly has recently gone to work for the Los Angeles Police Department and joined odd crime report fandom. Her avocations include giggling and falling asleep at parties.

#2 Fred Patten, book reviewer and comics dealer. Fred is known to have the world's largest collection of baggies. He also has a large number of old comics which he uses to keep his baggies from getting crushed. As a huckster, Fred deals in French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Serbo-Croatian, and Tagalog comics. In publishing fandom, Fred is noted for meticulous exactness and precision which makes most people itch.

#3 Allen Frisbie, computer fumdiddler and master of miscellaneous machines.

Allen provided computer services for LACon, repaired the Space War machines, and also put together this photocover. He is an emeritus member of The Grim Reapers. No, The Grim Reapers isn't a fan organization; it's a motorcycle gang.

#4 Bill Warren, horror movie fan. Bill has watched every horror movie in the whole world. Several times. Just thinking about all the horror movies Bill Warren has watched makes my stomach hurt.

Line Three

#1 Bob Hollander. There are a total of five Hollander brothers and all of them are members of LASFS. There are also several other people who look like Hollander brothers, so occasionally they get counted in with the rest. The eldest of the crowd is Herr Doktor Flieg, who is currently teaching chemistry in the Midwest. Bob is a senior boy scout and wants to become a Protestant minister. Out of five brothers I guess you could expect one of them to go bad. He does smoke, gamble and chase women, so maybe there's some hope.

#2 Bea Barrio, fan artist. While Bea is an artist who happens to be a fan, she also is a professional graphic artist. She also is a funny writer, but her written material hasn't appeared anywhere except in Apa L. She's just what every genzine editor needs around the house.

#3 Dan Goodman, fan historian and political analyst. Dan has discovered hitherto undreamed of complexities in fandom, some of which may really exist. Actually, I find that I agree with Dan on fan matters much more often than I did several years ago. This indicates that either I've changed, Dan's changed, or fandom's changed.

#4 Jay Konigsberg, third generation fan. Jay is the son of June (Konigsberg) Hoffatt and Eph Konigsberg. His maternal grandmother was Louise Leipiar, who wrote under the name of L. Major Reynolds. As far as we know, he hasn't sprouted tendrils yet, so maybe the effects of fandom have been overrated. Be warned though, his father's family had umlauts as a recessive characteristic. Jay's descendants may be expected to sprout umlauts at any time.

#5 Tom Digby, world champeen lino writer. Tom has been nominated twice for the best fanwriter Hugo. He is also the only fan ever to be Tuckerized into a science fiction story as a robot. There's something I've noticed about Tom that may have subliminally influenced Larry Niven into describing Tom as a robot. Most of the time Tom talks as if he had no life whatsoever prior to last week. He does come up with all those ideas you've seen in print plus hundreds and hundreds of others. They're probably quite useful ideas in his native dimension.

#6 Doug Abe, local clubfan. Suspected science fiction reader.

Line Four

#1 Drew Sanders, comics collector and duplicate bridge fan. Also gets involved with masquerades at conventions. Drew once bid seven no trump at LASFS poker and won. Had to split the pot with the guy who had the four of clubs in the hole though.

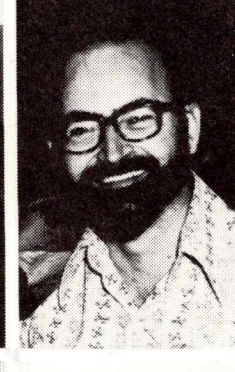
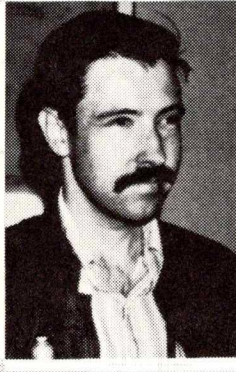
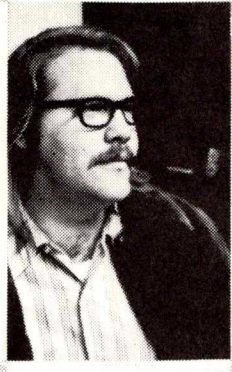
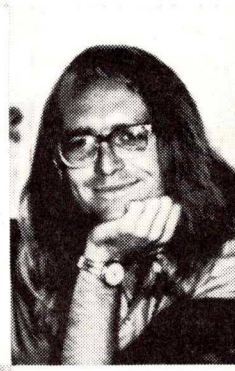
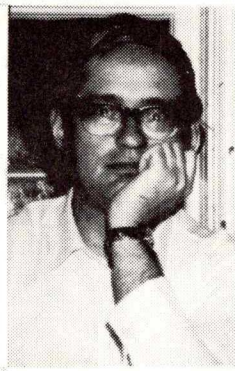


APA L



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#2 Donald Cassel, certified weirdo. Donald did a comic strip in Apa L called "Demented Duck" which consisted of kindergarten level artwork and Godawful puns. His last installment was a parody of a popular TV show "Duck Shadows." Everybody loved it. Donald went into shock and hasn't done a comic strip since.

#3 Ed Finkelstein, archetypal fan. Ed is one of those shy, polite, bespectacled fans that they quit manufacturing after the war.

#4 Ted Johnstone/Dave McDaniel, writer of Man From Uncle novels. Ted is one of the few people in fandom who lives under a pseudonym (Johnstone) and writes under his real name (McDaniel). Aside from his proac, Ted is a retired omniapan. Back in the early sixties, Harness, Johnstone, and Pelz styled themselves as the Committee for Arson, Rape, and Bloody Murder (ARBIM) and made it a point of joining all of the apas in fandom. Apa X was founded specifically to exclude the ARBIM boys and Norm Metcalf. In the last ten years, omniapanism is an activity which has progressed from being ill advised to being downright ridiculous.

#5 Sandy Cohen, authority. Sandy used to specialize in thoroughgoing discussions of the finer details and arcane complexities of Robert's Rules of Order. As a result, LASFS gave up using Robert's Rules in 1971. Sandy is also noted for wearing a funny hat.

#6 Larry Niven, boy multi-billionaire. The wealth of Niven is, of course, proverbial. Larry is the only multi-billionaire science fiction writer, and he cheated by being born in the right place.

Line Five

#1 Stan Burns Stan originally showed up at LASFS to write a sociology term paper and has been around ever since. I don't know whether the paper ever got written, but Stan did graduate from college a couple years ago. Stan's major avocations include moaning and malingering. During an average card game, Stan will moan piteously that he is; down for the evening, down for the year, or suffering from his allergies, whichever seems to be applicable at the moment.

#2 Elliot Weinstein, confessed cartoonist. Elliot started a comic strip in Apa L titled "Space Petrol" which made people long for the good old days of "Demented Duck." He then started "Merry Holedies with Bags Bunny" which made people long for the good old days of "Space Petrol." Elliot is several influential members of Science Fiction Hoaxters of America. SFHA is the organization which stages the Ranquets and hands out the Hogus, Black Holes, and Swampo Awards.

#3-4 Len and June Hoffatt, last year's TAFF winners. The Hoffatts publish the mystery fanzine "JDI Bibliophile" and have been actively involved with the Bouchercons (mystery conventions). Everyone is making a point of being nice to Len, since he's in the process of writing his fan memoirs. You all know what Los Angeles fan memoirs are like, don't you?

#5 Bruce Pelz, our local SNOF. Bruce has been the political boss of LASFS for about the last ten years. The building fund, Apa L, the LASFS

incorporation, and games playing on a monumental scale have all been features of the Pelz period. Bruce still has one of the largest fanzine collections in the world leftover from his omniapan days. In the last few years, he's changed his emphasis from fanzines to conventions. He sometimes appears in Larry Niven stories as Gregory Pelton, The Elephant.

#6 Craig Miller, rising young fan executive. Craig is a phenomenon of modern fandom. Years ago, you didn't find people doing staff work as their first form of fanac. Craig has advanced himself in local fandom by organizational competence. He's co-chairman of the 1975 Westcon and will undoubtedly be elected to the LASFS Board of Directors next year. No telling what he will be doing by the time he finally turns twenty-one.

PAGE TWO

Line One

#1 Bernie Zubor, high ranking officer of the Mythopoeic Society. I don't know how much good the office does him, since the Mythopoeic Society is a hereditary monarchy. Honest, Glen and Bonnie Goodknight own two-thirds of the Mythopoeic Society Incorporated and can presumably pass it on as a property right.

#2 Jerry Pournelle, president of SFMA. The pipe indicates he's a serious writer, but the open collar qualifies it to being a serious adventure story writer. Jerry carries a switchblade knife and sometimes a sword cane. He should be considered armed and dangerous.

#3 Jack Harnoss, fan artist, humorist, and inventor of bizarre card games. Maybe the last two go together, since many people ask if Jack is kidding when he introduces a new card game like Low Flying Werewolf. He seldom is. Jack is more-or-less semi-permanent LASFS secretary. All those qualifiers are necessary, because Jack doesn't run every term and he is usually impeached a couple times during the terms in which he is elected. Sometimes the club impeaches Jack even if he isn't in office, just so they can stay in practice.

#4 Jay Freeman, scientist type. Jay started his career at Cal Tech, which explains a great deal. He speaks either Scientific or English with a thick scientific accent. He also writes mathematical formulae on bathroom walls.

#5 Greg Chalfin When I first met Greg I was impressed that he looked like someone who ought to be named Boris. He still does. Greg is noted as a fan of all sorts of things from the fifties. As I recall, people who looked like they ought to be named Boris wouldn't have been very popular in the fifties.

#6 Vanessa of the Ineffable Surname "Most fans don't use their first names and some don't use their right names," goes the line in "The Musquite Kid." If you had Vanessa's last name, you wouldn't use it either. Vanessa's most notable characteristic seems to be likeability. If you get within five feet of Vanessa, you get this overwhelming feeling that Vanessa is a wonderful person. She doesn't have to be doing anything to produce the effect. It's apparently an aura. I expect Vanessa will do something major with this quality eventually, like embezzling a million dollars and taking off for Argentina.

Line Two

#1 Jim Hollander, another of the numerous Hollander brothers. Jim doesn't want to become a Protestant Minister like Bob. Jim wants to become a frog. The pipe indicates he wants to become a serious frog.

#2 Ed Buchman, putrifan. Ed would have been a worthy member of The Cult during one of its raunchier periods. By vigorous use of his depraved wit, Ed has singlehandedly managed to lower the level of the LASFS and Apa L by a significant margin. He's the only person on Earth who can leer at a glass of milk. He also makes disgusting comments on mathematical functions.

#3 Lee Gold Recently, Lee has been involved in a local fiction writing group which includes Glycer, Goodman, Weinstein, Harness, and others. The idea is for all of them to write stories set in a common universe. Each member can add their own planet or planets as the mood strikes them. It's sort of cosmic Balkanism.

#4 Leslie Swigart, Vice Chairman of the LASFS Board of Directors. She doesn't look like that sort of a girl, does she?

#5 Lois Newman, hard-headed, two-fisted business woman. Drinks her bourbon straight out of the bottle. She is noted for her ability to turn Jack Chalker into nutty putty with a single glance. Lois has recently been leading an insurgency movement against Glen Goodknight in the Mythopoeic Society. I think that lad may be in real trouble.

#6 Chris Wilson, girl. That's what we call starting with the obvious. She's also a local clubfan who spent a term as official LASFS greeter. Chris was replaced in office by Tom Digby. Some club members reasoned that anyone who could survive meeting Digby could probably get along with the rest of the club.

Line Three

#1 Barry Gold Barry is one of the many fans who was employed or otherwise stationed at System Development Corporation. Others include Allen Frisbie, Doug Abe, Gus Willmorth, and me. Lee and Barry make a major effort to be friends with everybody. It's been said that the Golds would try befriending a rabid dog. Their major avocations include taking shots and frothing at the mouth.

#2 Dave Nee, Barea newszine editor and member of the Gay Liberation Front. The whirring sound you hear is F. Towner Laney. In spite of the current liberal attitude, homosexuals develop some odd social problems. For instance, Dave was talking about his boyfriend in Apa L. He must have forgotten about Ed Buchman being in the audience. In the following week's Apa L, Ed asked, "Did he have a tight one?" That's the source of the gag line "Tight is right" which you may have noticed in Prehensile.

#3 Dave Fox Dave has been a member of the LASFS since the thirties. While Dave has lived through vast amounts of fan history, he has paid attention to almost none of it. Maybe that's why he's still around.

#4 Phil Castora, practitioner of epileptic laughter. Phil's laughter is something which would draw large crowds if it were put on any convention program. It has to be seen to be believed.

#5 Dan Alderson, spaceship fumdiddler. Dan worked on developing the navigational program for the Pioneer shot out of the solar system. He's actually quite modest about his accomplishments. If he developed a faster than light drive this afternoon, he'd be the first to tell you that it wasn't really a very good faster than light drive. Modesty is a rather rare quality among fans.

#6 Chuck Crayne, LACon co-chairman and Nasfic bidder. Chuck is undoubtedly one of the sharper people in fandom. Although the Australians seem to be enjoying overwhelming support in fanzine fandom, I wouldn't discount the possibility of Chuck pulling some last minute shrewd maneuver to even things up. I doubt that it will be enough to win, but the outcome shouldn't be considered certain until the votes are counted.

Line Four

#1 Elayne, secretary and official sex symbol of LACon. Her qualifications for the second title aren't as obvious in this photo, because she's wearing her clothes. Actually, Elayne is quite competent and probably one of the few fans who underestimates her own intelligence. She's much better known as a sex symbol, but then who the heck spends time looking at a brain.

#2 Charlie Jackson There are those times when you wonder whether a person is either perpetrating an elaborate put-on or is crazy. In Charlie's case, I have decided that he is crazy. To be exact, he can't seem to distinguish between fantasies he makes up himself and reality. There are a number of LASPSians who humor him in his apparent delusions. He seems to be harmless, but I'd just as soon avoid him when I have the choice.

#3 Dian Girard Crayne, fan artist and former multi-apan. Dian's low sense of humor made her a popular contributor to numerous apas where she circulated articles on torture and pornographic drawings among other things. Her interest in torture has been expanded into the study of bare-handed maiming and killing. Dian will be supporting Chuck's worldcon/nasfic bid. The fact that we're still in the competition shows how dingy we are on the subject of conventions.

#4 Kees Van Toorn, out man in Rotterdam. In the interests of fan internationalism, Kees writes his Apa L mailing comments in German, French Flemish, and Uridu. Apa L contributors reply with cartoons and profanity. This picture of Kees was taken as he discovered what "In Dutch" means in American slang.

#5 Milt Stevens, sarcastic comment maker. Compulsive busyness combined with diletantism has given Milt a wide range of trivial knowledge which has no earthly purpose except for writing fanzine material. His ability to become involved with various obscure projects ensures that he doesn't get much fanzine writing done. So it goes.

#6 Vixen, daughter of Dave Fox. Relocating to the BArea to go to college has somewhat interrupted Vixen's participation in Apa L and LASFS. While up North, she's been participating in many of the exotic BArea vices, such as Locus collating sessions.

Line Five

#1 Rebecca Lesses As a girl, Rebecca was warned about the dangers of falling in with bad company. She disregarded those warnings, met fans, and now participates in Apa L every week from Boston. This picture was taken when she was just getting started in weekly apanism. She's bound to look much more degenerate by now.

#2 John Hertz, one of Jack Harness' Scientological associates. John started in the Scientology Organization as a tomato and received numerous promotions.

#3 Freff As you can see from this picture, Freff suffers from the Elm Tree Blight. He can still do artwork, but he tends to drop leaves all over the floor.

#4 T'eri Moore T'eri changes the spelling of her first name with the phases of the moon. Thankfully, this version is less than thirteen letters and has no Q's or Z's in it. Other than that, her most notable oddity is dating Charlie Jackson.

#5 Fuzzy Pink Niven, girl multi-billionairess. As is appropriate for a member of fabulous wealth fandom, Fuzzy collects jewelry. She has to have her own personal lighting engineer accompany her everywhere so she doesn't overwhelm casual passersby. One of her major avocations is telling people "Larry and I aren't really wealthy." It doesn't do her any good because of people like me who go around telling Niven Fabulous Wealth stories.

#6 James Langell, practitioner of subtle humor of the odd school. He is also a noted penguin fancier. At Westercon, James was demonstrating his ability to tie himself into a pretzel. I think it comes from fancying penguins.

#7 Aljo Svoboda, fabulous fan personality. In the course of reading the Moffatt garage from top to bottom, Aljo has developed many strange powers which exceed those of most dog catchers in Atlantic City. Now that he has given up writing all that Brooklyn Insurgent stuff and settled down to using only his own name and that of Ed Cagle, you can expect the volume of his writing to increase. In honor of his sixteenth birthday in November, Aljo intends to write all the material for every fanzine in the world for that month.

After looking at all these pictures, you may find yourself wondering how all these people fit together in one more-or-less social milieu. Well, it beats the heck out of me. L.A. fandom has always tended to be rather monolithic, just as New York fandom has been splintered. There have been some notable exceptions in L.A. fan history, but it's generally true. Maybe people cluster together to avoid the smog, who knows?

ONCE MORE WITH TED WHITE

First letter
March 17, 1973

Dear Milton:

I received your PASSING PARADE #3 today, and as nearly as I can tell from your latest ripost, you are conceding defeat while claiming victory.

Nowhere in the quotes you pulled from context did I say that you, or the LACon Committee were "thieves or associates of thieves." This is what you said I said. You were wrong.

You do not have me "absolutely cold" on what I said—you're not even close, in your paranoid interpretations.

For instance, you first quote: the "immediately looming" one which you added emphasis to: I find it fascinating that this reference, which was in fact to the New York bid for 1974, was one you took to mean yourselves. I would open myself to a law suit from Al Schuster if I said more than this, I would imagine, but my concern was with potential (a word which was in the quote you abstracted) abuse—not the actual abuses to which any present con committee might be privy.

The second quote, as most people properly inferred, refers to Noreascon in the parenthetical remark, "There are those who say we've already waited too long."

Your interpretation of my editorial in the September AMAZING is your own—I never seriously considered Toronto to be a potential abuser of the Worldcons. The quote in no way buttresses your stand that I called you a "thief."

The October FANTASTIC did not appear "until after LACon." It came out before and was on sale in the LACon hotel (where it sold twice as fast as any other sf magazine). ((I'm sure that must have done us bunches and bunches of good...MFS)) The cover date is the off-sale date, a point I've pointed out more than once in my magazines.

The simple fact of the matter is that my "attack" was not "calculated to do (you) a maximum amount of damage." This is your own delusion.

It is a shame that your capabilities are limited to searching out remarks which you can claim to be intended to hurt you-- and that you have no apparent ability to actually read what I said within the context in which I said it. But I won't suggest you reread those editorials again; obviously your mind is closed. (Equally obvious: you have a problem with your conscience.)

As for a return to \$2 membership fees, let us not beat around the bush. LACon made a huge profit on its convention. Rumor has it that the LACon profits subsidized several trips (in reimbursement) to Heidelberg to the tune of around \$2000 or more. And this doesn't count whatever else LACon made

for its private charity, the Club House Fund. I note that none of the regular fannish charities received any funds from LACon, that no monies were passed on to either Toronto or Washington, and that the SFWA is getting ready to take action to see to it that--as a result of LACon and Noreascon's ripoff tactics--future Worldcons will have to hire their speakers. You have accumulated much bad karma for the Worldcons and you've inestimably hurt future Worldcons.

Your self-serving pose of honesty does not fool me in the slightest. Nor am I interested in your own version of petty fan politics--something in which I've had neither interest nor involvement for as many years as you've been a fan. ((And I am Marie of Roumania...IFS))

If you want to know what it is that I want to see in a Worldcon, you have only to read what I have written on the subject. Who puts on the Worldcon is a matter of little concern to me. How it is put on matters a good deal more. No One in the Toronto group is in "my sphere of influence," as you put it. ((Not since Porter is no longer on the committee...IFS)) In fact, I would suspect that the LACon has more old friends of mine than any other recent committee, save Washington's. ((Name one...IFS)) And I am not on the DC committee and have no hand in its policies. (In fact, it was through conversations with the Haldemans that I decided to write that series of editorials.)

The idea that I would decide to "smear two fan centers" is a cute one, but far afield from the facts. Since I have never identified "fan centers" as objects for either attack or approval, about all I can conclude from your suggestion is that is the way you see fandom. You can have it.

"You don't know me well enough to make any authoritative statements on what my personal ego trips may be," you state. I could as easily say that you don't know me well enough to make the authoritative statements you made about me. But if you think your ego tripping wasn't awfully obvious in your own descriptions of hassling LACongoers, you ought to reread your own stuff.

And, finally, "a physical attack?" When Leland Sapiro took a plane to a distant city, some twenty years ago, solely to punch a fan (a well-known bigot) in the nose, I considered the act quixotic but I have absolutely no plans to emulate him, much as I think you could use it. In the end, you hang yourself very nicely with your own writing. You present yourself to FAPA and the world at large as an uptight prick. I'm sure I couldn't improve on that. ((Has anyone ever told you that mindless profanity does a great deal to elevate your style...IFS))

Yhos,
Ted White

Hilt Stevens Speaking

Most of the content of this letter is either self-contradictory or contradicted by your second letter. "I never called you a thief, you rip-off artist" is not exactly the most convincing line of argument in the world. Also, you have been threatened with libel suits often enough in the past to know that there is no important difference between naming and identifying.

"Rumor" happened to be a letter from Los Angeles which informed you of the trips to Heidelberg. I also mentioned the matter tangentially in Passing Parade #3. There were two trips rather than several and the cost was \$1300 rather than \$2000 or more, but it's a lot closer than most of your information. As I've mentioned before, we regard all items which would be deductible expenses for tax purposes as reimbursable items. If you don't like it, that's tough.

Now to some straight factual errors on your part. Funds have been disbursed as listed in our financial report. The Worldcon Emergency fund contains LACon money; however, we are still in possession of the emergency fund. Ideally, the emergency fund would have been transferred some months back. But while we have written several letters to John Millard, he has not replied to any of them. I do not feel that we are obligated to chase John Millard in order to give him money. As the matter stands now, the emergency fund will be transferred to either Millard or Haldeman at Torcon. I see no reason why the emergency fund can't be used as a permanent pass-on by future worldcon committees. Hopefully, future concons will not have the failure of communications which we have experienced with Toronto. If the fund is transferred shortly after a convention, the next concon can use the money for any purpose they like until after their own convention.

So you don't like my circumlocution regarding fan centers. OK, you've had a grudge against Tony Lewis for years. I don't know the exact reason, but it predates Noreascon. The way most people get in a feud with you is when they somehow indicate that they don't think you're an absolutely marvelous person. Bruce Pelz is blunt even to his friends and he has an extremely limited tolerance for fools. I imagine he's stepped on your ego quite a few times in the past. I can recall a couple examples, but it would take more effort than I'm willing to expend at the moment in order to locate them. When you are feuding with the leading fan in an area you tend to also go after the activities in that area, so in effect you take in the area with the individual.

Your comments on SFWA policy indicates that you didn't read Robert Bloch's letter in Passing Parade #3. You should have. In Null F #49, you say that I threw Wendy Fletcher out of LACon. That is untrue and your statement is the result of misreading what I wrote in Passing Parade #2. It is undoubtedly your ability to read carefully which has made you the highly paid editor you are.

Ted White
Second Letter
June 26, 1973

Dear Hilton;

A note from my publisher informs me that you called him in New York City, asked to speak to me, expressed considerable annoyance over my editorials, and claimed that someone—but not you—was thinking of suing me for libel.

Hilton, this was not a wise move on your part. As we are both aware, I do not live in New York City, have not lived there for nearly three years, and the possibility of reaching me at my publisher's number is

remote. It would appear obvious that your motive was not to speak to me (I can be reached at my listed number here in Virginia) but to harrass me by telling my publisher stories about libel suits based on my editorials.

You and I are both aware that there is no libel in my editorials, and that if anything they are understated. I now have in my hands both the official LACon Financial Report and Andy Porter's letters to LOCUS analyzing this report. I have also the statement of Joe Hensley that the Worldcon Emergency Fund was turned over to Boston several years ago and no longer exists and has not received funds from LACon.

Hilton, you and your friends had better do one of two things: either push your present course of action and be prepared for a series of criminal and civil suits based on the criminal acts you have been perpetrating against fandom--or adopt a very low profile (this does not include acts of bravado such as threatening libel suits in others' names) and hope that without further provocation on your part everything will sooner or later blow over. ((Now at last he's said it/ And it's certainly to his debit/ That I am a crooked fan/ Yes, I am a crooked fan...G & S + IFS))

It's not my game any longer. Others have sniffed your scent and are eager for the kill. You have many enemies in fandom and damned few friends. ((That's good, my paranoid delusions were getting lonely...IFS)) It's just like Watergate, in miniature. At the present I have no plans to involve myself further in this matter. But I can be pushed. You are pushing. In your own best interests you would be advised to stop.

Sincerely yours,
Ted White

Hilt Stevens Again

I must admit that I've had outrageous amounts of fun with this letter. Even without the Gilbert and Sullivan parody, the dramatic reading at LASFS was one of the funniest things in some time, although it did start a cycle of "We have sniffed your scent Hilt Stevens" gags.

I never had the slightest intention of talking to you when I called New York. Why would I want to talk to you? Your editorial in the August Amazing impugned my honesty and was libelous. Sol Cohen was informed that if material of this type continued to be printed in his magazines that he would be sued. There is, of course, utterly no point in suing you. I'm sure Cohen must have danced around with delight at your willingness to have him sued.

Andy Porter's "information" turned out to be not as good as you thought it was. (Anyone who has seen Andy's letter and not seen "Documents for the Defense" in which I've Instaprinted the cancelled checks from the LACon Program Book can get a copy by dropping me a card.) Since I don't have an advanced case of brain rot, I don't put any credence in your word. When you see that Andy isn't holding the field I'm sure you'll launch another attack. It better not be in Amazing. Anything in fanzines I can deal with well enough. If by some stroke of cosmic good fortune I never hear from you again, it'll be entirely too soon.

FANZINES A REVIEW THEREOF

Alternatives #7 (Rickey L. Shanklin, 4205 $\frac{1}{2}$ Fitch Ave., Baltimore, MD 21236 25¢ 4/31 trades) A comic strip titled "The Masked Marble" tickles my sense of the absurd. I was going to comment that the strip is actually about a marble, but then what else would it be about. This is a slim offset fanzine which contains fanzine, book, and movie reviews in addition to the comic strip.

Maya #5 (Ian Maule, 13 Weardale Ave., Forest Hall, Newcastle on Tyne, NE12 OHX, UK. 50¢ trades, locs) This is the first English genzine I've seen in some time. I'd heard that British fans spent a good deal of time being concerned with the status of British fandom and that seems to be the case in this issue. Maybe they should sell it back to the Picts and stop worrying.

The item which I noticed the most was Ian Williams' fanzine reviews. They impressed me as being a little bit unpleasant. Even the worst fanzine editor in the whole world probably doesn't deserve to be skinned alive or keel hauled. The fanzines reviewed are all British, so I guess Williams didn't want to create an international incident by reviewing foreign fanzines.

The Anything Thing #5-6 (Frank Balazs and Matthew Schneck, 19 High Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 40¢, trade, loc) The Balazs/Schneck conglomerate has been attracting better material as time goes on. In #5, Ed Cagle describes an unusual freeway alternative, using railroad tracks for automobile travel. Shortly after reading this article, I discovered that Model T Fords were designed so they would run on standard guage railroad tracks if you removed the tires from the rims. Railroads used them in place of hand cars. Jim Zychowicz has an article titled "Classics of SF That We Don't Need At All" which is a Screw Your Mother's Apple Pie item. Highly commentable. In #6, Balazs/Schneck announce their forthcoming irregularity. Most fanzine editors don't even have to announce a thing like that. Somewhere in this issue, one of the editors mentions stencilling artwork with a pen. Maybe that's one of their problems with stencilling. A stylus would work better. Preferably several stylae with varrying widths. A shading plate is also helpful.

Parenthesis #1 (Frank Balazs, Address same as above. Price one or two 8¢ stamps) This is Frank's initial entry into the personalzine racket. He goes on record as opposing the Nasfic. "Nasfic would simply draw a few thousand attendees..." There is the answer to Frank's question as to why there should be a Nasfic. There is a demand for it.

Cipher #7 (Chris Couch, Route 2, Box 889, No. 1 Cymry Lane, Arnold, MO. trade, loc, food, 35¢ 3/31) In Terry Carr's Entropy Reprint, Terry expresses wonder that T. Bruce Yerke could have written a humorous essay without a previous tradition of fan humor writing. Humorous essays have been common from the late 18th century onward. I'm pretty sure that I could print a fanzine using Charles Lamb's essays from the 19th century and everyone would think it was great fannish material. So called fannish writing has a much greater antiquity than Terry suspects.

Arnie Katz has the germ of an idea in his article "The Non-Linear Convention." Conventions have fallen into using a standard format and there hasn't been enough work done on developing other alternatives. Arnie's suggestions aren't serious, but there are serious ones which could be made. The only drawback I can see is that most changes would be in the direction of letting attendees participate in the program, and I know that most attendees are spectators rather than participants as a matter of choice.

Doug Lovenstein gets my award for having produced the most inconsequential piece of fan writing I've seen in six months. It's not badly written, but it would take a genius to make an account of going to a hardware store to buy a roach clip worthwhile.

Adrenalin #1 (John Carl, 3750 Green Lane; Butte, MT 59701 trade, loc, 25¢ 5/31) This one looks like a personalzine, but it's actually aspiring to be a regular genzine. Brazier and Cagle are the contributors in this issue. Amazing how much you can write when you stay away from large fan centers.

Awry #4-5 (Dave Locke, 915 Mt. Olive Drive, Duarte, CA 91010. Selected trades, sterling and frequent locs, or six 8¢ stamps--no other denominations of stamps or currency acceptable.) As long as Tina Hensel and I are associated with this publication, you can expect a continuing supply of material on odd history. Tina has an article "In the Celtic Twilight" in #4 and I do an article on anchorites in #5. There is also material from Dean Grennell, Jackie Franke, and the editor, all of it funny. This is definitely the fanzine you should all rush out and nominate for the Hugo next year. Then go out and vote for it five times each. The preceding has been a nepotistic political announcement.

Mocbius Trip #17 (Ed Connor, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria Ill. 61604. 75¢ 5/33) While I am usually more-or-less oblivious to graphics and such, this issue evoked an official goshwowboyohboy. It's done as a paperback book with 198 numbered pages. The best item in the issue is Mervyn Barrett's movie adaptation of "The Sam Moskowitz Story." Paul Walker has an interesting questionnaire which I meant to answer but obviously didn't.

Frank Denton Attacks The World (That isn't really a fanzine title, but I have this stack of Frank Denton fanzines, and I'm not even sure I've found all of them around the apartment. They all come from the aforementioned gentleman who resides at 14654-8th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98166)

Leading off the chain of Denton publications Ashwing #11 and #12. This is a regular genzine. #11 features a long article by Philip K. Dick which is a bit too anti-technology and pro-thievery for my own tastes, but it would make a very good topic for a bull session. #12 has a long editorial by Frank on a Global Village Conference and a seminar on teaching science fiction among other things. If you aren't receiving any of Frank's publications, Ashwing is the publication to ask for. You can probably get one copy on request and then you'll have to do whatever is necessary.

"A Cerulean Sky" and "By Owl Light #1-3" are incarnations of Frank's personalzine. Frank has been spending a lot of time out in all that weather with nature and stuff. His account made me almost sorry that we don't have any weather in Los Angeles aside from heat and smog. Then I remembered that when I was in Seattle it rained for the first 20 days.

You know, smog isn't entirely bad, if you're a chain smoker anyway.

Tandstikkerzeitung #1-3 (Don Markstein, 2425 Nashville Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115. trade, loc, other) With the increasing number of personalzines these days, I think we ought to form an official Personalzine Publishers Conspiracy. You can't trust any fanzine over thirty pages. The preceding comment was prompted by the fact that Tandstikkerzeitung is a personalzine. Don tells about attending the Saturday midnight movies at a porno theater. For some reason, porno theaters around the country run this midnight movie series which consists of classic films. There used to be quite a few fans here in Los Angeles who attended them regularly.

The third issue contains a letter from Charles Finney which is depressing. Finney is in a state of mind to die soon. I sometimes suspect that more people die from giving up than from any other cause.

Prehensile #9 (Mike Glycer, 14974 Osceola St., Sylmar, CA 91342 50¢, trade, loc) I show up here as a character in a parody of a movie I haven't seen (Billy Jack). It took the card playing crowd quite a bit of effort to convince me to transcend violence after the August Amazing appeared. I was thinking in terms of fragging Ted White at Torcon. They pointed out that wasn't really nasty enough. I'm always amenable to reason.

This issue contains Ed Buchman's poster for procedural director of LASFS. Last election, I had agreed to run for director if nobody else wanted the job. Buchman decided to put in a putrid bid for the directorship. I staged an all-out campaign for Buchman and he won. More than one can play this putridity game.

Granfalloon #17 (Linda and Ron Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave., Prospect Park, PA 19076 75¢ 3/32) The fanzine of 75¢ idealism. The feature item in this issue is a long editorial in which Linda attacks a multitude and even a large number of fannish vices. In response to this editorial, I wrote a genuine snotty letter to Linda. You might wonder why I would write a snotty letter to a pleasant, if somewhat vague, girl like Linda. Because it was good for my soul, that's why.

Finders-Keepers #1-2 (Donald G. Jackson, 1043 Vine Street, Adrian, Mich. 49221 50¢, trades, and probably locs) Although I'm sure the editor didn't intend it that way, this fanzine superficially looks like a stock prospectus. I know that because I inadvertently filed one issue along with my stock market material. I was particularly interested in an interview with Vaughn Bode in #2. I was following his comments on meditation up until he mentioned evil spirits. Several years ago, I experimented with yoga and meditation until I reached the point that I decided I didn't want to progress any further in that direction. Meditation can help you see certain relationships, but it certainly has no connection with evil spirits or diabolism.

Gorbett (David and Beth Gorman, 3515 Lauriston Drive, New Castle, Ind., 47362. 50¢ 5/32, trades, publishable locs) Thomas Disch's somewhat pontifical article contains one idea which is so alien that it made me stop and think for several minutes. The idea is that people would feel guilt when they realized there were people who weren't as well off financially. Disch must not live in the same world I do. I'm familiar

with people feeling guilt because of lack of success, but not the other way round.

Kratophany #3 (Eli Cohen, 417 W. 118th St., Apt. #63, New York, NY 10027 50¢, trade, loc) David Emerson has written the first Army story I've seen in a fanzine in some time. Sounds like he had a fairly quiet time in the Army. Now when I was in the Navy...

Phantasmicom #10 (Jeff Smith, 4102-301 Potter St., Baltimore, MD 21229 75¢ 3/\$2, trade) The editor believes in keeping sercon material and fannish material in two different publications. This is his sercon fanzine and Kyben is his fannish fanzine. I know other editors feel that the two types of material shouldn't be mixed in the same issue, but most of the fanzine fans I know read both without particular prejudice against either. Maybe it's the subtle influence of Judaism on fandom. People who don't keep two sets of dishes feel that they should keep two sets of fanzines.

Bob Sabella writes an account of the Clarion Writers Workshop. I think I've read a couple other such accounts. Clarion sounds like it would be an interesting thing to do for a month, even if you weren't particularly interested in writing science fiction professionally. Darrell Schweitzer has an article on lowering the cost of the Hugos. If you lowered the cost of the Hugos and had 10,000 voters, I suspect that the awards would be given to klunkers about as often as they are today. Wisdom does not necessarily reside in large numbers.

Carandaith #7 (Alpajpuri, Box 28, Washon, WA 98070. trade, published loc, or \$1 cash, no subs) The two major items in this issue are George Barr's fanquet speech on the care and feeding of artists and Arnie Katz's interpretation of fandom from 1967 to 1969. I disagreed with Arnie's article enough that I wrote a loc on this one. Why should people listen to Arnie Katz when they can listen to me instead? Arnie's article is laid out in trapazoidal columns with illustrations across the top of the page. With all due respect to graphics fans, I don't think trapazoidal columns are the wave of the future.

Yandro #220-221 (Robert and Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, IN 47348. 50¢ 4/\$1.80 12/\$5) In #220 Buck announced that he was going to reduce his fanzine reviews to listings, but he recanted the policy in #221. I'm rather glad of that. In the ten years I've been reading Yandro, I've considered Buck's fanzine and book reviews to be one of the most interesting features. They're quite useful for getting a broad overview of what's been published lately.

Haverings #55 (Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6QL \$1 for 6 issues) Speaking of fanzine reviews, this is the fanzine of nothing but. It contains quite a few addresses of British fanzine editors, so I may try expanding my trade list across the Atlantic with this issue. Who knows, maybe I can start an international incident with Ian Williams.

Title #17 (Donn Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Drive, St Louis, MO 63131. no price; but trades and letters seem to do the job.) Since this is the August issue, I guess I'm still on the mailing list. I haven't sent a trade in six months and I haven't written a letter in several. This is the letterzine of the hour, and at least I put out the effort to feel guilty about not responding more often.

This is the last page of fanzine reviews, no matter what. I'll try to save some of the more recent stuff for next issue.

Kwalhioqua #4-5 (Ed Cagle, Route #1, Leon, KS 67074. available for all sorts of things including money) ((Monthly fanzine editors have overactive glands, pass it on.)) I learned from Jackie Franke's classification of fan species that Fanus Californius are supposed to spend most of their time poking barbs into the pretensions of other fan species. Who us? Wild pickles seem to be a recurrent Caglean topic. Ed Buchman is notably fond of pickle pounding, but that isn't quite the same thing.

Umbra #5 (John Robinson, c/o ASSFS, Box 530 DD SUNYA, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222 40¢ 3/31 or the usual) In fanzine reviews, John tells what happened to the fur blanket saleswoman I foisted off on David Gerrold at LACon. Apparently David couldn't get rid of her. That's surprising, since I've always given David credit for being quite glib. I also have a postcard from John soliciting a contribution. It begins "Your insider's review of LACon was great. How come I haven't seen anything as good by you since?" After Passing Parade #2, I started hitting the bottle pretty heavily, and the next thing I knew I was on the skids to Palookasville. You know how it is with us fan writers.

Sandworm #19 (Bob Vardeman, PO Box 11352, Albuquerque, NM 87112. locs, trades, 50¢--no long term subs) Al Snider has an article in which he is quite critical of the spectator fans at conventions. I've never really understood the spectator type in fandom. As far as I can see, fandom is only worthwhile if you're doing something. Even if only getting into trouble.

Godless #3-4 (Sp4 Bruce D. Arthurs, 57th Trans Co, Fort Lee, VA 23801. trade, loc, 35¢) Correction to my earlier comment, Bruce Arthurs has an Army story in here. Now when I was in the Navy... He also has a review of Scaramouche in here. It's been a long time since I went on a binge of reading Rafael Sabatini novels. They were sort of fun. In #4, Arthurs asks Aljo Svoboda to explain Coventry and the Boondoggle. Oh my! Aljo may tell the truth and maybe he won't. I'm sure Aljo could think of something more probable than the truth. If he tells the truth, Arthurs will never believe him. I wouldn't explain things like that in print, because it would leave nothing to talk about in dark corners at conventions.

Starling #25 (Hank and Lesleigh Luttrell, 525 W. Main #1, Madison, WI 53703. trade, loc, 50¢ 3/31) Andrew Darlington has an article on early British space comics and Lesleigh has an article on Miss Tey mystery stories. As the fanzine of popular culture, Starling is filled with things I wouldn't encounter normally.

Sirriush #11 (Railee Bothman, 1300 W. Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122. trades, locs, 50¢) I read "Godzilla vs. Planet of the Apes" by Randall D. Larson. It served me right. I discovered that Sirriush is a Babylonian dragon. With fanzine titles these days, I never bother wondering what they mean.

Other fanzines on hand: No #13 from Ruth Berman, Colog #15-17 from Mike Wood, Maybe #28 from Irvin Koch, Amra #58-59 from George Scithers, and Nosfan #23 from Dennis Dolbear. Sorry folks, but I've got to get this fanzine out.

IT CAME FROM OUT OF THE MAILBOX

Brian Burley
38 Main Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

I happened to come across a copy of your Passing Parade #3 the other day (it was Steve Stiles' copy) wherein you mention that you think that the record for conventions worked on is 5 for 12 months.

I think you will find that record broken on the East Coast many times, since there are so many more conventions here than in the West. Off hand, I would think that the following have probably worked on five or more conventions in a 12 month period: Scratch Bacharack, Jack Chalker, Fred Lerner, Dennis McCunney, and Ted Pauls. I think I have done it myself 3 times, 1969, 1970, and 1971 with five, six, and seven cons respectively, and 23 total in the last seven years. Cons include Marcon, Open ESFA, Balticon, Lunacon, Philcon, Mondocon, Infinity Con, the first Star Trek Con (not Al Schuster's) about 4 worldcons, and I don't know what else.

((The aforementioned individuals are hereby awarded The Galactic Hernia for overfeasance.))

John Carl
3750 Green Lane
Butte, MT 59701

Freff's cover was beautiful; one of the best I've seen in the last few months, though ENERGUIEN #14 and KRATOPHANY #2 did surpass it. Still, way above norm for a fanzine. And the Evil Connotations of the spaceship were not immediately obvious, so don't worry about it. I don't like your policy--if there is one, at least-- of not having interior art. It adds a feeling of completeness and certainly appeals to graphic-nuts like me and Jerry Lopicus. It's not as if stencils cost that much, nor paper, etc.

((My personal sense of economics involves time rather than money. Including interior artwork would take time, and that's something I'm always short of. I also want to keep this fanzine as a publication I can produce for a number of years without breaking my back. Editors of large, fancy genzines make a big splash, but they also sink rather quickly. There's also one of my personal quirks involved. I don't like to ask people for things. I'm not a maniac on the subject, but I won't ask people to do things for me if it can be easily avoided. That's why I decided to do an editor written fanzine.))

D. Gary Grady
102 Ann Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Not being a con-attending fan (by circumstances, not choice), I am always intrigued to read about the goings-on in that world of fandom. The constant uproar about the hugoes, rotation rules and money grabbing on the part of the committee, etc., is strange to a disconnected observer. It's a bit like watching a Japanese movie. I gotta admit, though, that \$10 does sound ridiculous as an admission fee. Surely you don't need \$20,000 plus for a con!! I guess I'm just not well informed, but I must admit it sounds a lot like poor management of profiteering. Especially when I can go to the Spring Tourney of the Middle Kingdom of the SCA for \$3.25 a head, INCLUDING food and lodging. I'm not making accusations. I'd just like to see something other than "Ted White's a bastard who calls people names.

((SCA functions have been notably inexpensive since they added those coin operated insurance machines with half the proceeds going to The Society.

You're right that I should avoid calling Ted White anything as mild as "a bastard who calls people names." After seeing the job Harlan Ellison did on Ted White over in Inworlds (or was it Outworlds), I almost feel like I've been guilty of praising with faint damn.))

Norm Hochberg
89-07 209 Street
Queens Village, NY 11427

On Ted White's letter, your first quote misrepresents Ted. He does not say "immediately looming worldcon," but "immediately looming... potential for corruption of the worldcon." There is a vast difference. He might have been talking about the New York in 74 bid or Discon II or the Nasfic or anything else. Of course, he might have meant LACon as well, but I can't say for sure. How can you?

The rest of your attack (as well as Ted's I might add) is also fuzzy. Both of you seem to have your own prejudices and pre-formed opinions and are trying to find facts to back them up (no matter how tenuous the connection). Sigh, I'm just not into fan feuds at all. They usually seem pretty petty.

I've heard that LACon netted \$30,000. That sounds wrong--shouldn't that be gross? \$30,000 is still a hell of a lot of gross. ((We had some hints that Ted White didn't like us in particular. You may note from his second letter in this issue that those hints were entirely accurate. I agree that feuds are rather pointless, but it's the only way I can sublimate my desire to cut out Ted White's liver. You shouldn't even mention large sums like \$30,000 in connection with worldcon profits. The thought of all that money I didn't make gives me heartburn.))

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I rather like your reply to Ted White, tho I think you would have to agree with him that he didn't actually come out and call you &/or the LACon Committee thieves (or, even, whores or moochers); all he did was IMPLY it all to hell and gone (as you point out, in citing chapter and verse).

Frankly, since Ted has been blasting off at concons since the Boston people won their bid, I am rather forced to conclude that it was his own opinions that were the basis of his editorials in AMAZING and FANTASTIC, rather than "reader pressure," as cited. If there was such "reader pressure," I'm relatively sure that it was a result of Ted's own fan writing previous to the editorials, and the spread of the big lie therefrom. Certainly, if there was anything to prove the old thing about having anyone believe anything you say if you repeat it often enough and loud enough, this carping at concons for "profiteering" would be it.

Certainly, we could cut back the registration fees for conventions and cut out film programs which have proven so popular that they gave rise to our own Filmcon 1. Cut out the rent-a-fuzz which have cut down on the rip-offs which were on the rise from before NYcon}. Go back to the bare bones Program Booklets, which were nothing but a few ads and the program; dropping the sometimes superb art, the articles, profiles, etc., which make worthwhile souvenir books and valuable reference volumes of recent PBs.

Most of what Ted (& others) would like, of course, is to go back to

the old days of the small WorldCons (500-750), and there's no way we're ever going to get the old days back. I dig small cons, too, which is why we held the '70 Westercon in Santa Barbara...we had about 300 attendees, compared with over 550 the year before, and well over 600 the year after that. Over Memorial Day weekend, this year, we held the 1st Medievalcon; about 85 showed up, and it was a blast! That's the only way we're going to go back to small cons, people. But we've got to face the facts of life with the WorldCons; they are large, the majority of the attendees are going to be entertained, and cutting back from what is really a modest fee is not the way to entertain them. I say modest fee advisedly; for a \$10 membership, you're getting everything presented by (say) LACon at about 25¢ per hour, which is a bargain in entertainment these days.

As for the profiteering charges that Ted and others have been making: You'd have to charge about \$30 per person, and limit the concom to less than half a dozen people, spend almost nothing, etc., in order for any member of a concom to get anything like a living wage for the time, effort, etc. put into throwing a WorldCon. I'm sure that LACon could've found ways to cut some corners, and that hindsight has shown ways that money could've been more profitably spent, and that I have some quibbles with some of the expenses in your Final Report. But there's no way anyone made enough off of LACon to justify their time and effort, and I think it's about time the Whites, Bushyagers, et al quit impugning the honesty of people whose personalities they don't happen to like, or whose convention running philosophies they disagree with.

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Convention people should make a profit on their activities--there's nothing else in it for them--and so I hope Gail Knuth came out of it with enough to support herself for the rest of her life, and maybe enough for a few fanzines on the side. She should learn to enjoy the finer things of life. Maybe read a little science fiction, that sort of thing. If she continues to lead an incontinent life, though, she'll end up senile, like you and Ted White. One too many Worldcons, and...you're over the edge. It all becomes one big petty egotrip.

IAHF: Sandra Miesel, Sheryl Birkhead, Mike Glicksohn, Laurine White, Denis Quane, Dan Goodman, Doreen Webbert, Roy Tackett, Robert Bloch, Jeff Smith, Tony Cvetko, Leigh Couch, Don Markstein, Bruce D. Arthurs, Darrell Schwitzer, Will Straw, Rose Hogue, and Ruth Berman. With all those letters (actually some of them are cards) I feel guilty about not running a longer letter column, but I've got to get this issue out. Besides, I meant to publish a small fanzine.