

SPY RAY

BEM WITH FULL HOUSE



Friends, our text for today is taken from the inspirational works of Brother Bob Tucker: people who sit down to write a week before the deadline got lots of gall. Well, whoever said I didn't? This is your latest issue of SPY RAY, and is Operation Grifanac 335, brought to you in the interval between finishing the text and the cover for the Partial Exogesis of the Thoughts of Mao Tse-Tung.

It's Envy's Fault

Omitting egoboo is the one crime in the decalogue I haven't committed yet in SAPS (remind me to explain how I broke the others), but this time that'll mean reviewing two mailings at once. Well, let's fly at it.

SPELLBOREM 38/39 What, "(down, Scientologists!)" after the mention of confrontation? Not "down, Stoke!"? ** But the stalled genius may yet hit the combination of circumstances that will allow him to take several steps toward his exalted goal; what balance to strike between him and the slowly progressing numbskull who is going as fast as he ever will and won't have much when he gets there anyway? ** Tak, a tragedy in the classic sense purges us with pity and terror, whether the hero gets scragged or not. After all, Oedipus Rex is certainly a tragedy, though the worst of it is that Oedipus did not die... ** Well, there's a third way -- other than being worthless or sabre-toothed -- for a country to declare itself neutral and make it stick: be so useful as a neutral that nobody will attack. What with furnishing designs for machine cannon to the Allies and nickol to the Nazis, this may have been Sweden's gimmick. I doubt they could have run a battle squadron into the Sound to cover the evacuation of Denmark's Jews just because the SS felt benevolent that day. ** Hoy, is there a source of Goon Show records in the United States? I got two in Hong Kong, never went back, and found they were OP in England on my way back through there.

MEST 23/24 Has there ever been a serious continuation of time-framing fandoms past Sixth Fandom? I made a stab at describing (real) Seventh Fandom in FANCYCLOPEDIA II, but Seventh Transition, Eighth Fandom, and so on I never clearly perceived. ** What were you meaning to say, there where you refer to Box-Office International as a "slow-roating outfit"? There are so many possibilities I can't quite guess... ** "Any belief is better than none"? Exempli gratia those propagated by MM. de ~~Rais~~ Rais, Calvin, Wallenstein, Treitschke...? Not to get any more modern... ** Not quite right; "Hippies dig medievalists because of same virtues of honor, strength, justice, and ideals they admire in the Amerinds", yes, but also because, genuine medievalists being safely dead, they can ignore the accompanying qualities of feudal status-consciousness, ruthless brutality, deterrence by terrorism, and bigotry. And they aren't reminded that the conditions under which people of that time exercised the right to live their own lives were strict agreement with public concepts of what folk in their station were supposed to live like. The pageantry is beautiful and fun now because a power loom and a sewing machine can fix us up rather than having ten sweating serfs do the job. O well, it's about fifty years late to worry about this... ** Latest word...sorry, Word...is that those famous Communist helicopters flying over the DMZ were UFOs. I guess the other story, that they were misread radar sightings of ships, came a cropper when somebody quietly pointed out that some reports were of eyeball sightings by Marines well inland. ** Come, come, now, don't go fathoring nonsense on poor van Arnem, where you suggest that his gabble about undoubted facts about psychodolics was meant to apply only to those who

had access to valid data on the subject. I've sent you under separate cover some opinions by various medical groups who have more "access to valid data on the subject" than either of us -- and, unless DaV is concealing some Dark Secret, more than all three of us put together. All wicked Establishment types? OK, I'll add a comment from a medical physiologist from UCal Berkeley, that well-known Citadel of Reaction. It's appeal to a Authority, you say? Well, laddie, what kind of appeal was your comment about the opinions of those with access to valid data? ** You're even wrong about the Surgeon General's report, for chrissake. His finding was that tobacco smoke contained carcinogens, not that tobacco did. They are a product of the combustion process, and most combustion processes produce them -- I've never seen particulars on marijuana smoke as such, but unless it's radically different from other combustible plant products...but you see the point, surely. (The only study I've seen on whether tobacco, as distinguished from tobacco smoke, contained carcinogens was a bust; there are so many other irritants in tobacco juice effects were unclear.) ** "It's the only game in town", in the old joke, was given as a reason for not getting away. Tsk, is there no respect for classic sources among modern youth? ** I think you're making the same mistake in trying to distinguish Plastic and "real" Hippies as...um...I forget just who in claiming that the Papacy should be judged by its best representatives, ignoring the corrupt worldly simoniacal and like that. Sturgeon's Law can be applied to writing because the crud will like there and the good will live; but in a human group good and crud both live and both act. The group "is" what the 90% is, not what the 10% tries to be.

RETRO: Well, I was on Fort Hunt Road since before joining SAPS, really, because my old RFD address, Box 239B, was on Fort Hunt Road. But I broke with that by using my unit address when I was in Japan. ** "If you can't trust your OE, don't vote for him"? But -- but -- how can SAPS get ANY OE, then? Still, maybe you meant trust him not to steal the treasury or like that. ** I was going to raise an eyebrow at your comment about Hippies loving everybody and cite some of the messes they've left, but -- if you add the pseudo-Hippies from Politics Fandom -- your reservation about the plastic-Hippie teeny-boppers covers that point. ** What with Hitler getting a large boost out of popular fedupness with splinter parties and coalitions thereof, I think a case could be made out for the converse of your friend's argument: people not going along with anything they are not 100-point-zero% for allows things like Hitler to happen. Divide et Impera, as they used to say. ** Aha, you haven't kept up with your Maothink. The firearms sprouting cables, of course, are representations of power growing from the barrel of a gun. ** Well, one reason for licensing alcohol is that it can be produced very easily in ways we both wot of (in fact, I got an instructional film now...) and prohibiting it is administratively impossible. Pot is harder to produce in suitable quantity & quality, and knocking out this traffic -- or at least making it mighty difficult and uninviting -- is near enough possible to be considered, if one considers getting accustomed to the use of drugs as Bad a Thing as getting knee-walking drunk every night. ** I think the practitioners of the Hippie Thing have brought back enough to justify a tentative judgment on whether there's something worth going for in that direction. Unless they're keeping a lot of Secrets, there's nothing that can't be reached other ways; but it is worth having, yes.

SPECTRUM This will be a good reference when answering Joan's query about McCarthy, though I suppose any Lovocraft faasan would naturally tend to Weird Perverty notions on politics too... ** OK, Colin Wilson down. Now to convert Avram Davison. ** Whatever is the significance of "Hakulin has a security job and can't go to Germany"? NSA or something like that?

FINAGLE'S WORK Come on, gang, what DID happen at New York? Half the people claim it was horrible, a third more that the hotel should have been burned down, and the rest that it was jos' fine. This may not confuse you, but I was out of the country at the time.

DEADWOOD SAP Probably Kull dealt with women Conan style: the only mention of his organization along that line came in The Scarlet Citadel, where it transpired that Conan had an entire palace full of assorted types. ** Good grief, Epaminondas of Thebes wasn't an Emperor, or even King. ** Perhaps on my next tour I'll be in a position to get you ~~some~~ some exotic seeds. We shall see.

MURIAS That was rather a nice touch, that of giving the shoe with the defective sole to the Salvation Army, but remind me to keep my pockets sewed up when you're around... ** About McCarthy? Well, leaving aside the storm-troop antics of some of his backers as something he is not personally responsible for however undesirable they may be, I Think Not. Other things being equal I would prefer somebody who obviously has fun being a Subversive Intellectual Egghead, but the first two priority issues of the day are Caucasian-Colored relations and the War in Viet Nam. Compared to almost anybody except Reagan McCarthy is practically non est on the race problem and about Viet Nam he is appalling wrong; and, despite many merits, nobody who is that far off on an issue that important can be The Man Who. Considering the smears pushed by the Kennedyites I should specify that I don't buy for a moment the yarn about McCarthy being a secret racist. (Mostly, I think, circulated in Underground newspapers, though John Boardman was holding forth on this topic at the last DisClavo. ["Anybody Boardman donounces can't be all bad"??]) I just mean that he hasn't conspicuously stood up for racial equality when it wasn't popular, as Humphrey did, or even talked it up after it became in, like Bobby Kennedy. ** Besides, what will you bet the actual tickets turn out to be Rockefeller-Stasson and Abrams-Kennedy?

GOSLING 7/8 But Gandalf, at least, does indicate that Good is an active force in the War of the Ring -- from the first conversation with Frodo ("Bilbo was meant to find the Ring, and not by its maker") to his last quoted comment, about the Defense of Dale breaking the threat to Rivendell, which traced back to his encounter with Thorin Oakenshield at an inn a century before: "A chance meeting, as we say in Middle Earth". ** Good grief, what got you so grotched at Tom Sawyer, "nasty head" and all? True, the kid was a Nut, but who are fans to cast stones? ** As I observed, outlawing booze and outlawing pot present different administrative problems. And the more pertinent question, I think, is not whether people think pot is harmless but whether it is harmless. If not, and the contrary opinion is being boosted by pothead propaganda, that's justification for disregarding that opinion, surely. ** Tsk! Patton's first soldier-slapping blunder occurred when he was a Major-General; the second, when he'd been promoted to Lieutenant-General. The year after that he was a full General commanding Third Army. So dead carcasses we all should be.

SPACEWARP I believe somebody beat you to the use of that cover you describe, and on FBSE already. It showed a robot painter looking out over a lava crater and painting the city that used to be there. ** Surely you could have plotted the center of SAPS locations on a map without resorting to geometry, by setting one edge as an arbitrary zero meridian and an adjacent one as an arbitrary zero parallel. Then got the (preferably metric) coordinates and average those, for the various locations. Greenwich, poocy. ** As it happens there was a comparison between national games and national tactics/strategy, in the late

unpleasantness betwixt us and the Japanese. Only catch for the philosophically inclined was that we played backward, so to speak. The Japanese depended on a hard perimeter defense reinforced by a fast backfield, or, to put it less hermetically, an outer ring of fortified positions which in principle could hold off an invading force until their air & navy could concentrate to overwhelm the enemy. We, on the other hand, instead of removing all their men from the board simply surrounded large gaggles of them and considered them as much as captured, just the way any qualified Go player would. I disremember what the Chinese war-type game is -- they have a number of possibilities, many of the chess type (i.e. board games using numerous pieces of different powers in any one game). The one they consciously use as a referent, though, isn't a "war" game especially; that famous Chicom line about the East wind prevailing over the West wind is a figure of speech taken from Mah Jongg. Which happens to be outlawed in Red China...

IPOR QUE? That was Snoopy fighting the Red Baron. I don't remember whether I mentioned that later, at Lunacon, I got a button from that ~~E~~ Missouri group that wants the con and added it at an appropriate place, converting the motto into "Curse You, Red Baron! St. Louis Next!" ** Well, if he actually gets all the service training manuals they won't be too neat looking. The Army and Air Force and Marines are involved, too, with white and two shades of brown for their bindings. Spines, I mean.

OUTSIDERS Isn't it rather ostentatious to get both a wife AND a house all at once? I mean, what will you do for an encore? ** Goo, Mary Baker Eddy would have been great as a writer of Manual Orders. I wonder what Science and Health would look like in Navy blue&white covers...

STUMPING 22/23 "Most women can fight, if trained, as well as most men"? You mean, surely, if trained to pull their punches and observe the Queensbury rules and all like that... ** CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN is the telegraphic and running-heading contraction for CONFIDENTIAL / NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION. The point is that something is, though not dangerous in the security sense of prejudicing national defense, not the sort of thing we want others to know we said. Say, a speculation on how long so-and-so will last in office considering that he's put such-a-one's back up by favoring literacy tests for politicians. ** Guynemoyor? French ace of World War I.

BANDERSNATCH Sorry to spoil your language-teacher's chances, but if you dug a hole through the Earth & jumped in you would come out just about as far from land as it's possible to get -- in the Indian Ocean a couple thousand miles west of Cape Louwin, Australia -- not in China. ** Well, the question of what society should or shouldn't do about indulging in drugs ("the present government" isn't doing so -- or did you mean that, say, a McCarthyite administration should tell you not to but somebody else's shouldn't?) is partly dependent on what you're also doing. If you're going to talk or blow guitar or dig pictures at home or in private, I don't think they should stop you drinking or tripping. If you're going to drive or keep accounts or vote, that's different. ** The data obtainable from the Eskimos and Araposh is that if you want to avoid being hostile and aggressive you've got to live from hand to mouth, in locations other people wouldn't take if you paid 'em, and be prepared to surround anything you have or find on demand and without compensation. If that offers hope, I guess I'm more satisfied with despair than I first thought.

FROM SUNDAY TO SATURDAY Perhaps we should form an Old Song Erudition Club, or

to take a leaf from the original Spectators an Old Historical Song Erudition Knowledge Society. I think the passage from "Puttin' On The Stylo" you want goes: "Young man on the corner / Puffin' on a pipe, / Looking like a pumpkin / That's only halfway ripe, / Drinkin', smokin', cussin' / And thinking all the while / Nothing's quite so fine as / Puttin' on the stylo!". I don't believe there's a mention of high school boys, but there is a Young Man Back From College whose bag is "--a fancy jawbreaker / He can hardly say; / It isn't found in Webster / And it won't be for a while..." ** Since the early mathematicians hadn't invented decimals (Holland, XVI) they couldn't have made do with 3.1, and as far back as classical times 22/7 was a known close approximation. But when a hat is oval, how can a measure be taken across its diameter? ** Well, the objection to the stock excuse for doublethink you cite ("we only criticize the Allies because they're the ones we can do something about") is that the moral position is invalid unless it's treated as superior to expediency -- indeed, that's about the only way to distinguish it from personal preference without pontothal, polygraphs, and other administratively inconvenient tests. If you are saying "killing is unlimited evil and I object to it all" that's suitably moral (though clabberwitted); if it's "killing is unlimited evil but I'm only going to object to the accidental kind, because the people who are doing it on purpose won't ~~me~~ treat me with as much deference" the argument loses somewhat of its force. My own, he said modestly, is perceptibly more honest: I'm against killing innocent civilians because it's a destructively wasteful control method even at best (and there are some more objections when control isn't the object); and killing more is worse, and killing people on purpose is worse than killing them by accident; therefore The Goal will be better served by Doing Something about those who are killing large numbers on purpose, whether the VC treat me with deference or not. ** Another thing that would have cast your apologia in a more favorable light would have been not associating it with protests against a government which could find reasons to arrest most of the unsuccessful candidates after the last election. I would think shame of anybody who couldn't find reasons to arrest most politicians or had to wait for an election, but that's not what I started out to say. Phrasing it like that you make it sound like you meant that the Vietnamese government did this. (I hope it was a slip of the tongue and not an indication that you believe such a thing happened or a deliberate...uh...misstatement.) FYI one of the ten unsuccessful candidates was burst by the fuzz after the elections. (And you can leave the quotes off "froc", ta; neither I nor you ever heard of a rigged election in which the presumed riggers got a scant plurality.) I had been in Saigon the preceding (whole) year and can certify from my own knowledge that the charge on which he was picked up was made not only before he was an unsuccessful candidate but even before he filed for office: he'd asked a couple of Americans for a bribe to help them get off a currency-smuggling charge (trying to run US dollars thru customs without reporting them). It was speculation at the time that this kat, Truong dinh Dzu, was running to enjoy the instant Amnesty extended to candidates; whether this was his actual purpose he never said. If you'll go into detail about the amorphous charge about torturing and killing prisoners I suspect it'll turn out to be as much of a wind pie as that just discussed...

SPY RAY last: Hah, it's good I added "for a while there" to my note it was hard to get shot at any more! But of course the evaluation of the Hamlet Reports that indicated a military blowup was due wasn't completed till a week after I wrote that. What gretched me was the VC making their May attack just before the FAPA deadline, and just after I'd given Pavlat /FAPA OE/ a zino noting the likelihood of an attack at deadline time. And then I cancelled F-UN-con plans ~~for~~ because of the projected early July attack, & when our people made a big bag of equipment & prisoners the VC high command set the date back 3-4 weeks. Growf. I hate people who are deliberately uncooperative.