

ZAJE ZACULO



LEGION OF THE DAMNED --comments on SFPA 15

THE SOUTHERNER--(OE) It strikes me that since the membership limit of 20 is just an OEvil decree, the OE could extend the membership if anyone worthwhile really wanted to join. It might be a good idea to keep it at 20 for awhile longer, though. There is a ravenous hoard of neos running around joining everything first and asking questions later, and a little time on a wl might do them some good. A little time on the SAPS wl certainly did me some good anyway.

DAMNYANKEE--(Katz) Don't worry, Arnie, we'll get around to psychoanalyzing you in TAPS or somewhere sooner or later. ##This "apas I belong to" contest is getting ridiculous. Every quarter each of us has added one or two more. I'm now in seven to the five you list here, but you're probably in eight by this time.

I know what's wrong with my mimeo. It's possessed by evil spirits. Each one has to be exorcised before the reproduction it gives is acceptable. The demons of underink, clogpad, offset and marginfade all have their standard procedures for attack. When one of these monsters begins to possess the mimeo I try several alternate procedures to banish it. If nothing works I go away and come back in a week. My biggest mimeo problem is Al Scott. Whenever he approaches within 10 feet of the thing all the evil spirits attack at once. The only way to exorcise them is to push Al down the stairs. (And everybody but Scott probably thinks I'm only kidding).

Why don't you send a copy of that new waver article to Metcalf? I'd be interested in hearing what he has to say in rebuttal (if anything).

Gee, Arnie. Either N'APA has changed since all this business began or I have. I guess it's a combination of both. A lot of the fans who came in with us are now gone into oblivion to be replaced by an equally obnoxious group. I think I can understand, now, the objections of someone like Dave Hulan to the group. I still like it however, for the hard core of excellent fanwriters it includes. One doesn't have to read all the crud if one doesn't like it. The Patten-Pelz-Tackett-Meskys axis is sufficient for me. I would recommend it to the SFPAn who are monapans purely because it is the easiest quarterly apa to get into and there is a guarantee of at least some worthwhile reading every quarter. The people in N'APA (some of them) are so different from the old SFPAn core that the variety in style and outlook might prove refreshing. I think that SFPA is becoming what N'APA used to be. In fact, it's almost becoming a focal point apa, or something. I find that I'm more interested at present in contributing to SFPA than N'APA, but that's because the better elements of N'APA are, as Hulan remarked, also present in SAPS.

ENDLESS SHADOW--(Mitchell) I'll assume that you're not a hoax until this can be proved at the DeepSouthcon. Your fan fiction suffers from a common ailment...it's too short and has no character development at all. The art of making a good joke or anecdote into a vignette is extremely complicated. A beginning writer should avoid this type of thing rather than flocking to it. The thing is, your gimmick is trite, although you probably had no way of knowing this when you wrote "The Failing Fangs of Mr. Desmodeus." It is necessary to write this kind of thing either in the first person or with a sort of stream of consciousness technique. You do avoid many of the flaws however, the dialogue isn't as wooden as it might have been. Your transition from the dream to the dentist's office is too disjointed... too compressed. Try again anyway.

I don't know what's getting into me, commenting on fan fiction and all... must be the heat.

STOP THE PRESSES--(Staton) You fiend... wouldn't you know that the one mailing I've vowed to cover completely would be studded with one sheeters. I guess I'll come back to the subject of the election and the one sheet deluge when I get to the postmailings. In the mean time, how does a four line "noted" suit you?



STARLING--(Luttrell) I agree with Hamlin that an action type SF story is a good thing, but think that Doc Savage is a poor example of that genre. I guess it all boils down to "what kind of lousy science fiction do you like?" Now take ~~EE~~ Smith...

I think that if you tightened up your lettercol a little it might improve the general tone of your fanzine. At present, you give the impression that you print every word you receive. Hank, you ought to spend more space talking about sf & stuff and less on fiction. Not that articles on sf are inherently superior, but you seem to do them well.

SUCH AND SUCH--(Luttrell) Dick Deadeye in H.M.S. Pinafore was a deformed sailor with a nasty disposition. Everyone hated him because he was ugly. At the

time, making fun of cripples was in good taste, although our current society frowns on such cruelty. It's fragments like this which may eventually force Gilbert & Sullivan into obsolescence. Already, many of the words in the pattersongs in the Mikado have been changed because of the offense they offer to Negroes. Actually, I suppose that the operas will change rather than become non-existent. Which really doesn't have much to do with your comments on F&SF, but who reads Science Fiction in prozines, nowadays?

KABUMPO--(D. Pelz) A most ingenious cover. You might try Kent McDaniel for back SFPA mailings. He's dropping out and wants to sell some of his old fmz and/or trade them for old issues of Monster magazines and Marvel comic books. I think anyone who'd trade fmz for monster mags is crazy, but there ought to be more people who're crazy like that.

I'm a fan of Jack Douglas. Have you read Huckleberry Hashimoto? That's his latest collection about his trip to Japan. I don't think any Douglas fan could ever forget those great plays of "Tennessee Glecken"(or however he spelt it) I've wondered from time to time if he's the same Jack Douglas who used to write science fiction. (The Red Stone series for one thing.) He had a story in Amazing a few years back which was similar in style to the humorous writings of The Other Jack Douglas.

The Art Rapp poetry was great. It makes me wish I'd been around in the glorious days of Fifth Fandom etc... Sounds like fanning was a hell of a lot of fun back then. #I've read some Thorne Smith (Topper Takes a Trip & The Passionate Witch) and agree with you that Smith was a gas. I especially liked his whimsical treatment of French spoken in English with all the idioms translated literally. I have trouble believing that the television series was based on these books.

UTGARD--(Hulan) You mean that I am now a coholder of the longest streak of SFPA mailings hit without missing any? Gee, and this mailing will make six straight thus equalling your old record and leaving only seven to go until I tie Plott.

I've always pronounced ZZ as Zah-jay Zahk-you-low as you have done. I can see where the Spanish type pronunciation could be applied, but since my second language is French, I think in terms of it.

I was only kidding, Dave. You couldn't get me to circulate an issue of Cursed again anywhere for love or money. In fact, I'm still looking for old issues so

that I can burn them. Don't tell completist Tom Gilbert on me, now.

Am I going to be a good guy or a bad guy in your serial? I made you the hero of our SFFA comic strip.

LOKI--(Hulan) Sorry to see this go. This issue looks a little dated. Didn't you run it through SAPS a couple of mailings ago? Ed Cox has agreed to transfer his former LOKI column to Excalibur. Hope his jinx doesn't strike again. We're already going to be late on the next issue.

MANNDATE--(Mann) While many fandoms are oblivious to us, there are not many fandoms which aren't known to somebody in sfdom. Sf Fandom is the kind of hobby which encourages ventures out into other fandoms whereas Model Railroad fandom or Coin fandom wouldn't stimulate outside interests. Amateur Radio Fandom is another which encourages communication as is Amateur Journalism. The word oriented fandoms are tenuously connected whereas many of the manual skills and collecting fandoms are not.

A lot of the best fanzines are not concerned with SF per se. Look at Quark, Litho, Descant etc. It all depends on which fanzines you want to name. We were postulating a cessation of published sf, not a disappearance of all previous sf. If sf as a form of literature had never existed then sure, fandom as we know it wouldn't exist. The trouble with making predictions about future fandom is that what we call "fandom" is a series of interlapping groups, like in a sociogram or a Venn diagram. I'm sure that many people in SFFA are not aware of many aspects of "genfandom" in the way that I personally am not acquainted with goings on in Burroughs fandom or the New Wave in England. Then there's Diplomacy fandom. A quick glance at the roster shows only myself and Dian Pelz engaged in national Diplomacy. Yet Katz, Scott and Atkins are familiar with the game as is Hulan, I take it. Since most Diplomacy fans are also sf fans, Dipl. fandom could be considered part of "fandom" and it would certainly continue without science fiction as would the Quebeccons (as another example). Yet the N3F would probably disintegrate. ...Certainly, groups like ESFA would not exist as other than social clubs with no contact at all with fandom as we know it. The question is not really so simple.

CLARGES--(Atkins/Scott) Lon, I suspect that you are going to turn out to be another Tom Gilbert type neo, which is to say, you won't be a neo at all but will emerge full grown ~~from Zeus's~~ if Clarges #1 is any indication. I was extremely interested this time in your article on the crud effect and the titanium-nickel alloy. I always enjoy articles written by scientist type fen. Have you read any of Ian McAulay's articles in a similar vein?

Those things in the hands of the people on the cover of ZZ#4 were lightning rods. You see Lightning Lad was dead at the time, and the only way to bring him back to life was for one of the Legion of Superheroes to electrocute himself and... oh skip it--comic books you know...don't expect them to make sense.

Are you coming down to Charlotte for the Queen City Open chess tournament? I've been thinking of entering in the jr. division if I can scrape up the registration fee etc. etc.

Scott-- I dunno why I was on the debate team this year either, except that I wouldn't have been able to come up to Chapel Hill in the finals and get out of school and everything if I wasn't. It's sort of fun, too, in its own way.

I tried your code message, but became convinced that it wasn't a simple cipher. I think I'm being had here. *sigh* for a mimeo that worked like yours does.

INVADER--(Staton) Your Burroughs parody was fairly good, but lately it seems that Burroughs parodies have been done to death. Burroughs himself does the best job in Escape on Venus, and though I haven't read Land of Terror, I gather that it too is a satire; this time on the early Pellucidar books.

Gee, Joe, I hope you don't mind faneds using stale artwork too much, as every once in awhile an old filler or two by you seems to pop up in Ex.

Yeah, there are some awfully rotten English teachers down here, but this past year I discovered that there are some good ones too. Why if not for this very English teacher doing some first class subversive type stuff I probably would not be attending UCLA in the fan center of the universe come fall. Anyway, I'm graduated and out of high school now and I think I share the sentiments expressed by Lon Atkins at three in the morning once--"High School is a pile of crap."

You know, Joe, with all the right margin justifying you did in this zine you could challenge Tom Gilbert to a championship margin justifier in fandom contest.

IPZIK & ZZ--(me) Wow. I was certainly in a hurray last mailing, wasn't I? I'll try to avoid such last minute tactics in the future. Although, the way I have it figured out, one quarter N'APA is going to get minac and the next quarter SFFA is. Since this is N'APA's month for a short zine I've included more stuff than usual in this mlg. When Dave credits the comicstrip in his box score he's going to run out of asterisks for co-edited zines, or have to use so many of them that it runs off the page at this rate.

WARLOCK--(Montgomery) You know, Larry, I was listening to your arguments in this issue and was even considering voting for you for awhile. I would like to see the OEs ship stay in the actual south and encouraged Joe to run again for that reason. Then your little postmailings started coming and there was no doubt in my mind. Other apas have survived having the OEs ship in California and I guess this one will have to do so now.

Since we all publish primarily for our own enjoyment and you like fan fiction then proceed. I'll try to comment but don't count on it. Fan fiction is Evil.

CLIFFHANGERS--(Norwood) I take it back...almost all fan fiction is evil. Yours is well done. You consistantly come up with the most inventive formats and mediums to present your comments to the SFFA. If the egoboo poll had a place for "most inventive member" I'd vote you in right away.

Now that I've complimented you, next time howabout inventing a way to sneak in some comments on ZZ eh wot?

ASSORTED POSTMAILINGS-- It probably was unfair of Joe to give Dave the post of temporary mailer when he was in the campaign, but since he won anyway and probably would have won anyway I guess there's no harm done. Next time try to show some more impartiality. Larry's gripe about Dave not being a legal resident of the South is unfounded as was shown in Conflicting Interpretations. I suspect that Larry showed the constitution to his lawyer friend before the amendment was added or that he didn't call attention to it. I think this campaign has been healthy for SFFA, and that the competitive spirit shown was a good thing even if it did start getting out of hand at the last. I don't think that giving the Mailer position to Hulan influenced voting greatly. Larry would have had a better position, I feel, if he had not come on so strongly. The merits of his campaign were offset by the vehemance with which he presented his arguments.

And I wonder how many SFFAns are aware of the activities of the nefarious oboe player formerly of the waitinglist who tried to get his own name on the ballot.

This seems to be the last page--TOPS IN POPS: 1.Utgard 2.Kabumpo 3.Clauges

4. Damnyankee 5. Invader

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