

maLaise #14
Vol. 3, No. 2
2 Feb 65

which is the usual precedent-shattering contribution of Dave Van Arnam to Apa L (& Apa F), and don't forget TERRY FOR TAFF! and NEW YORK IN '67!

Comments even more truncated this issue, due to the *columnist* aboard. BILL BLACKBEARD, I knew there were people who didn't like Ruth Plumly Thompson's Oz books (Martin Gardner, for one), but every time I see it in cold print it sort of shakes me up. For myself, I consider her stories better than Baum's, if anything. It's like people who hate the movie; I just can't see why. Sure, they're not the same as the original; they are creations in their own right. Owell... ++HANK STINE & ED BAKER: Perhaps Rand has a context for that statement; as it stands, it is a throwback to the Dark Ages. Let me carefully point out that I am not saying that a reasonable consideration for the guilty as well as the innocent means that the guilty shd go free, or something like that; let's keep that sidetrack out of this. But we have, after all, gone past the time when, as in England up till a hundred years or so, there were several hundred crimes for which hanging was the punishment. I once came across some 1790's issues of a British weekly... 'newsmagazine', I guess it cd be called. It had a weekly department on the hangings of the last seven days. Most of the hangings seemed to include a number of children, of from eight to 18 years; an account might go, "Robert Jones, age 11, for throwing a brick through a window; he acknowledged the justness of his sentence." Ok, Hank and Ed, my point is simply that pity for these guilty is in a proper cause, and that to me it is a simple extension to feeling pity for any guilty person; the line between innocence and guilt in any man is thin, and the ease with which any of us can be turned into animals is demonstrable. Ten words -- words, mind you, not striking him or robbing him -- Ten words spoken to any casual passerby can set him at your throat. Human beings are only sophisticated animals, after all...when one regresses, under who knows what intolerable strains, why shd we not feel pity, along with the terror? /&/ Well, and that was not all that well put together, but perhaps you see my point. ++DON FITCH: As I consider the likelihood of seduction-by-mail as you describe it to be a vanishingly small possibility, I'm afraid you'd have to put me down as disagreeing with you. It could happen, yes; but if it did, it wd probably be somebody that none of us noticed. The only solution wd be to disband the apas... (At any rate, I strongly doubt that your reasons were those of the FAPANs who blackballed Walter.) ++FRED PATTEN: All, or most all, of NY Fandom will be gathered physically together presently at the Eastercon/Lunacon; what will happen is...well, is what we shall find out... ++PHIL CASTORA: Thanx for kind words; the writing, I suspect is "less than perfect" because that particular fragment is a less than perfect concept. Yes, I hope to make it an Epic of Epics; as a matter of fact, a number of Epics... When I get a Tremendous Concept, I don't let go! /&/ I was gassed by the return of Solomon Grudy; I remember, some 18 years ago, when Green Lantern trapped him in that green bubble, or rather, I remembered when I saw the SHOWCASE where he breaks out. Boy, talk about nostalgia! ++ELL'N SUNDRY: No space for even comments on comments to me. JACK HARNESS, welcome with bravos to Apa F! More! BARRY GOLD, welcome also to Apa F; sorry I didn't comment on MALLORN LEAF (or rather, won't, because I don't have an m/c vehicle in Apa F). ++ And now, turn the page for none other than.....

Another maLAise First!AN UNTITLED COLUMN FOR maLAise

by Ted White

Perhaps the best thing about the inception and development of Apa L is the amount of cross communication it has encouraged between New York (or at least the Fanoclast/FISTFA/Apa F segment) and LA and the LASTS. There has always seemed to be more affinity between the East and West coasts than the Inner Lands, at least since I've been a fan, and the polarity seems to lie between Washington DC/Baltimore/New York/Boston and LA/Bay Area/Seattle, with various shifts of emphasis from time to time as the Center of the Universe finds a new resting place. (Currently it's located in Brooklyn, according to my astrologers...)

I was tickled by the thoughtiness of Tom Gilbert in sending me an incomplete copy of Apa L 13 (with "Incomplete #8 for Ted White" lightly pencilled in one corner), since I'd not sent anything to Apa L, nor actually expressed any overt interest in it, nor indeed done anything but comment on a Gilbert inclusion in Apa F. And I was pleased, too, because I find myself rather apathetic about Apa F these days (after all, I read the zines at the mailing, throw away my mailing comments in personal conversation, and then am not moved to put anything in the next mailing -- which means I'll get no return comments, so why bother? -- and then too, STELLAR 14 and the last F received next to no comment anyway), and Apa L with its zines by people I can't thrash it all out with in person is much more interesting to read.

It also inspires some comment, and, on the principle that delayed comment/egoboo is better than none at all, I hereby embark on #13 and those zines from #14 which were included in Apa F #30 --

GALLSTONE 13: Harness - "Certain infelicities of brain in N.Y. fen discourage us. If your bid plainly stated that certain fen would -- under no circumstances whatever -- be impressed into duty, we might reconsider." Whom had you in mind?

MIC-KUP #8: Kusske - "...I spent much time avidly reading their old SPIDER MAN and X-MEN mags." *sigh* It seems only yesterday -- in fact, it was -- that I started buying the Marvel line, and already people are talking about "old" copies. Why, FF #1 only came out two or three years ago... That's like, who was it? Johnstone or Lichtman or someone? saying in 1960 "Way back in 1959..." Instant nostalgia, boy. ## I recently sold the bulk of my collection of Rare Old Comics for the low price of \$700, because I was in dire need of money to pay for a car, and already I regret it. I still have the truly valuable ones, of course, like COMICS ON PARADE and CENTURY OF COMICS, the first and second 7x10 color comics ever published, FAMOUS FUNNIES #3, SUPERWORLD #1 (Uncle Hugo's abortive effort) and my collection of Simon & Kirby work (which is pretty large all by itself), and my EC's, and... But yesterday SHOWCASE came out with a revival of Doctor Fate and Hourman, and I wanted to check the first page of the story against the ALL-STAR it was loosely taken from (coincidentally, that was the first issue of ALL-STAR I ever read, at the tender age of nine, while at a place called Camp Goodwill,

in Virginia somewhere, on a beach while all the others were swimming, *sigh* -- there's nostalgia for you), and it was a bitter blow to remember I no longer had any ALL-STAR's... At any rate, Anderson & Fox did an above-average-for-DC job on this revival, and I Have Hopes -- although the gradual deterioration of HAWKMAN and GREEN LANTERN do not bode well for this new revival. ## And that's *comics* for this time.

CARCASILLA #13: Gilbert - Apa F is not that rigid about outsiders. Frankly I think the wholesale invasion of Apa F by Ellers is a Good Thing, and it may even get me back to doing issues of F again. Presently we require around 25 copies, but we can up that to 30 or 35 without strain. I suggest if the present Ellers continue to contribute to Apa F they send at least 30 copies against such an eventuality. ## There have been some other contenders for the Hugo this year. What do you think of Davy, Martian Timeslip, Penultimate Truth, Λάσζλοφ Ιρόνι 2300, et al? I think Phil Dick's books represent a high peak in science fiction, myself, and I'd like to strongly recommend you seek out the newly released (from Doubleday) Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch, a book which questions the basic nature of reality even more closely than any of his previous works, and includes what must be the funniest line from a stf book in the last five years: "Who ever heard of a suitcase being dominated by minds from an alien star system?" Phil is doing more with the science fiction form, without going outside of it, than anyone ever has in the past, I think. The level of his work puts Stranger in the sophomore shade that travesty richly deserves. Getting back to Davy, I was disappointed in its plotting, and the fact that it promised throughout to be a richer book than it was, but the writing was on a level unexcelled in the field, and I'll forgive a lot for writing of that calibre. ## I'm disappointed in you for suggesting DOUBLE:BILL for Hugo solely on the basis of the Symposium. The Symposium was quite atypical of the zine as a whole, which has still not attained an overall average of good editing, and reminds me more than anything else of YANDRO six or seven years ago. Among other regular zines which came out this year, I'd suggest ENCLAVE, and YANDRO itself, and I was highly impressed by Boggs' SHAGGY and the sole issue of QAR (but was that 1964?). And there's still WARHOON, although I think previous winners should not compete again. D:B simply can't stack up against any of these zines, when the overall contents are weighed.

CALLASTHEON #3: Gilbert - Al Lewis' comments seem fairly sound to me. It should be remembered that when we set up the Fanoclasts we did so after considering NYC's previous history of formalistic, all-inclusive, fractious, and shortlived clubs. For some reason, previous NYC clubs also were scheduled for monthly meetings, which I think are a consistent kiss of death for enthusiasm and continuity. My previous club experience had been with five years in D.C.'s WSFA, where we had biweekly meetings, one club for the whole city, and an average attendance of five to fifteen. We had factionalism in WSFA, largely between the fannish fans and the club fans, who bitterly resented my breaking up their little circle by getting people like Pavlat, Bill Evans, Lew Garner, and Chick Derry (all founding members) back in the club, and bringing Harness, Castora, John Hitchcock, John Magnus, and other fanzine fans of the times. But although a rival club was once briefly started by one such disgruntled club-fan, it didn't last. There weren't enough of us to have separate clubs; we did the next best thing by having separate cliques within the club. The Fanoclasts are simply a clique big enough to have a club of their own. We're a viable clique; we grow and admit

newcomers any time they seem to be tending in our direction. Andy Porter is one such fan -- three years ago Andy could never have gotten in; he has changed and as he did so we welcomed him. Recently Lee Hoffman has been a regular attendee, and her friends, like Don and Jo Meisner, have fit in perfectly and without strain. I should imagine, Tom, that you'd soon gravitate into the Fanoclasts if you lived in the area. You'd start out by attending ESFA, or Sci-Fi, and hearing about FISTFA. You'd attend a meeting or three there, join in on Apa F, and find yourself attending a Fanoclast meeting in short order. It's a filtering process, and there's nothing rigid about it. The Fanoclast blackball is not a formal thing, and has never been exercised that way. But since we are a loose clique, it's just a matter of gravitating into it.

GALLSTONE #14: Harness - Consider this a formal request by an Apa F member for your future participation in Apa F, Jack. I've been very much enjoying your GALLSTONES of late; they seem to evoke more spontaneous response and genuine communication from you than any of your other apa publications of the last several years. ## I think it's Rand's dogmatism that bugs me most of all. I am easily irritated by dogmatism of any variety, and although I will willingly grant many of her points singly, I don't care for their dogmatic application, and the ultimate reduction of the world into Aristotelian blacks and whites, Rands & non-Rands. If she were truly objective (with the small "o", pliz), this would not be possible. And her followers (discounting the fans in the audience, like brown and Stiles) consistently turn me off. Randianism seems to represent a sophomoric stage that people have to go through as a part of parental rejection and self-assertion. Hopefully, most of them will come through on the other side and gain a more balanced viewpoint. ## Do tell us how those Objectivist lectures turned out.

MALLORN LEAF: Gold - Well, of course Tolkien is a philologist, so it's logical he'd work out those root words as he has. I'm far more impressed by the grandeur of his history and the stories he's told against its setting than by the fineness of the philological details -- although I'm not putting them down, either. Tolkien represents a form of fantasy acutely British, linked in manner if not style, with Alice, Wind in the Willows, Pooh, and E Nesbit. It's a vanishing form, and I hope his current popularity will inspire more in the coming generation.

GREMLINKIN #3: Turner - But plastic spoons are awfully shallow and cumbersome. We used demitasse spoons until the baby was big enough for a regular spoon. And somehow, throwing a spoon on the floor never sent me rushing to the sink to rinse it off. Usually more food was deposited on the floor than germs or dirt on the spoon... Your canned milk idea seems like a lot of trouble, too. Usually one doesn't bother sterilizing a bottle after the baby is off formula milk anyway, so we usually simply took a clean bottle with us on trips, and when Sabrina made her needs known we would stop at a restaurant or the like and get it filled and warmed. Waitresses are marvelously solicitous about this; they love babies. I recall one time we drove up to the Tri-State area (Port Jervis, Milford, like that; where New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania all meet -- a lovely part of the country) with Calvin Demmon, and as we were returning late in the day, Sabrina decided she wanted a bottle, and we delegated Calvin to go into a roadside restaurant for a refill. He came back a short time later with the bottle, and gave me my money back. "They thought I was such a nice young father, they wouldn't take any money," he said. I suggest if you go on trips you take Calvin along for this purpose. He's quite handy.

WILLIS CHRISTMAS CARD: (Blackbeard) - I don't know; there's something vaguely unethical or maybe sacrilegious about this, especially if you did it without Walt's permission. I've been getting his cards for five or six years, now, and I can't recall anyone reprinting one since Gregg Calkins used the first several (with permission) as the opening segment of Willis's "Harp" column in OOPSLA!.

CALUDRON BUBBLE #11: Blackbeard - Where, indeed, is QAR? Gone the way of Dave's JARGON #2? Lost amid weekly apa-ac? *sigh* ## But "Real Soon Now" must be attributed not to Willis, but to the Detroit fans who began publishing a thing called DIMENTIA PRAECOX on a Real Soon Now schedule, back in the late fifties, when bidding for Detroit in '59... The phrase was so absolutely fitting that it immediately entered the fannish language. (Fanhistory service, at your disposal...) ## "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." is a wretched, wretched series. It is not clever, nor funny, nor good. Its dialogue is banal, its action is rarely relevant to the plot (what plot?), and the -- but I could go on and on. It was a feeble attempt to cash in on James Bond, but it lacked every single ingredient which insured Bond's success -- including crisp writing. For contrast, try "The Rogues." The plots tend to loaf through the first half hour, and then get hurried in the last ten minutes, but the situations are clever, the dialogue is witty, the acting is good (much better than "UNCLE's"), and the series is a thing of Joy. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to have garnered much popularity either, and will probably not be back next season. Oh well, there's still "Shindig," anyway...

CARCASILLA #14: Gilbert - "Contributions to fandom," implies something more than simply being a "good guy at clubs and conventions," I think. I like Jock Root -- he's a reasonably good friend of mine -- but I was rather appalled when he was announced for TAFF. I'd be equally so if, say, Dave Van Arnam had decided to run. Because neither has really done that much for fandom -- yet. Being a Nice Guy is not sufficient reason for deserving TAFF. Fandom is -- despite current rumors -- filled with Nice Guys. There has to be more to it than that. (Terry Carr is a Nice Guy, too....) I think that in the end, "contribution to fandom" must boil down to something like the fanzines you've published, or something equally significant, like putting on a convention which was significantly better than most, inaugurating some new and worthwhile innovation in fandom (the best reason for Ford to have won TAFF -- he more or less started it), or etc. Of course Terry Carr ranks above his competition this time -- even ignoring the entire fracas of the last year -- because he has been a fan for sixteen or more years, and has for the last half of that period at least published some of the most important fanzines, written some of the most important pieces (and created the most important hoax...), and -- all like that. ## I realize it's not your fault -- it's a bad habit you picked up from Van Arnam -- but when speaking of Apa F mlg's or whathaveyou, please do not say "F #24," or etc. You are actually referring to my Apa F publication, F, which has not yet reached its twenty-fourth issue. (F appears in Apa F for the same reason NULL-F -- or F -- appears in FAPA...) ## Yes, I think the "Pity for the guilty" quote is pretty damning of Objectivism -- it's a case of dogmatizing this selfish/unselfish business to the point of inhumanity. But then, let's not get back into that.

ITALIAN SWISS etc: Fitch - Yes, you're right: today our literary experience is too fragmented. I suppose this is

due to the proliferation of writing for the masses -- there is too much being written now for anyone to maintain a common background. This is true even of limited fields, like science fiction, and mysteries. And these fields compete with "classic" literature for modern attention. In my case, for example, I always scorned "moldy" writing as a kid, and sought out the fantasies, and boys' books of then and of the previous several generations. This attitude -- which has probably robbed me of a great deal but enriched me in other ways; that's life -- persists. I am a pop snob of sorts: I maintain that Chandler and Hammett are two of the finest writers of this century.

maLaise #13: Van Arnam - Surprise! A *poetry* comment: It seems to me there are two types of poetry: that intended to be viewed upon a page, or looked at; and that which is intended to be read aloud, or heard. The latter certainly has the weight of greater tradition behind it. But it leaves your Poundian scatterings of words devoid of visual emphasis. <<SAPrise! I don't quite follow you... -- dgv>>
I suppose we could start running WHEN IN ROME... through Apa's L and/or F if you chose. I've redrafted the first two chapters, and could easily keep ahead of your publishing schedule even at a chapter a week. And my drafts are not the final drafts, of course, so it would still be "work in progress..." But maybe you ought to think about copyrighting it... <<I dunno; maybe I'll run our next one thru the weeklies... -- dgv>>

FAIR PLAY #47: Van Arnam - This is mildly cheating, since you're at hand, but... ## Slow reading will always reveal more of an author's style. Terry Carr is a moderately slow reader, and has always been more style-conscious than I. Bill Evans, on the other hand, reads something like 2,000 wpm, and I am convinced it is this ability alone that has made it possible for him to read over 100 of my SHADOW mags without retching... <<I suppose I may hit up to 800 wpm, if it's not demanding reading, but anything by someone who knows how to write, and I slow right down to probably 200/300, frequently less. But I've not put this to the test for, oh, ten years now. And yes, I think you're right about speed and style-consciousness -- but that's enough Commenting On The Current Mailing for now... -- dgv>>

Thus ends my comments. They're about twice as long as I'd expected them to be, and I'm sorry that I didn't stencil them for Dave now, but oh well, what the hell. I put off doing FAPA mlg comments (which I must do this weekend), reading the new John D. MacDonald Travis McGee book, A Deadly Shade of Gold, writing my draft of the third chapter of When In Rome, and the third chapter of my new (plug) Lancer book, Phoenix Prime. *Sigh*

-- Ted White

We now return you to our local studios. Hm, after that, I don't know whether I'm up to continuing comments or not. It's times like these that make me regret APALling, but not very, considering all the extra postage this is going to cost me anyway. Actually, I'm typing this before doing page 1, so I don't know what I said there... ELLIE TURNER has given me the idea of doing a Directory and whatnot of New York Fandom, makes me wonder if she's read Laumer's A TRACE OF MEMORY, and reminds me to ask someone out there to tape her the next time she folksings Blackbeard into writing poems about it... More on the first page, I presume. Hoping you are the sane... (And someday yours mimeographed is going to slip up and end up this publication by saying 'hoping you are the sane...')

-- dgv