

RICHARD E. NIXON, MAN OF DESTINY

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COMMENTS ON THE 92nd MAILING, Aug 60

OLE CHEVELA (Trimbles etc.) -- This woman's cooking must be awesomely good, considering the way it inspired a whole horde of people to write far above their heads. Why, who ever thought van Vogt could write comic verse? Who ever imagined Perdue would turn out three pages of choice prose that weren't even postmailed? And most of the other contributors seemed to be pounding inspired typewriters. This fanzine made me hungry. Greater praise have I not.

DESCANT (Clarkes) -- "The Quest for Gainsborough" is first-class parody. But the little takeoff on Marianne Moore that followed it was even funnier ("A poet/ is a real toad/with/imaginary gardens/in him.") Good. And the poem about the pet warthog was as touching a description of love for animals as I've read all week. My heart goes out to that poor frightened warthog. I must be a softie.

THE RAMBLING FAP (Calkins) -- That list of BNFs of yesterday (1954?) is full of memories. I had practically forgotten Gil Menicucci and Larry Touzinski and old Derek Pickles. But who would rate Paul Enever and Ken Potter and Harry Turner as Very BNFs while overlooking Lee Hoffman, Richard Eney, Max Keasler, and Raleigh Multog?

TARGET: FAPA (Eney) -- This account of a nightmare journey undertaken for no other reason than to take an Irish policeman to Detroit confirms what I've believed about fans for a long time now.

CELEPHAIS (Evans) -- The Marschallin in Rosenkavalier is closer to 35 than 25, isn't she, Bill? Which still doesn't destroy the intentionally ludicrous references to her as "old." (Scott Fitzgerald once described a girl of 27

as "beautiful but faded." He was 23 or so when he wrote that story, but he lived to regret the sentence.) # Here's another who goes for Walcha's Bach. (In fact, I put Raeburn on to it.) I have about half of the complete Archive Walcha set, and hope to pick up the rest eventually. Do you know of the several Electrola disks now sold here that feature Walcha on the harpsichord? Goldbergs, English Suites, etc. He's just as good as on the organ. And blind since childhood, too. # Four or five Aksel Schiøtz LPs have been re-released recently on Danish Odeon. I have two of them currently: the Schubert Schoene Muellerin and the Bellman songs (the latter coupled with various light Scandinavian songs.) Technically the recordings are pretty good, and the performances are certainly splendid. Next time I'm downtown I plan to pick up the record of Carl Nielsen songs. Whomever is importing all these European disks is doing us a great favor in the stereo age; I wish someone would do the same for Japanese LPs now. (Did you know that many great 78 performances -- the Huesch lieder cycles, for instance -- are still in print as Japanese Victor LPS?) # First time I drank beer was at the age of seven; my father gave me some. I didn't like it, and didn't have any more for eight years. My reaction was different the second time. # The Beecham Zauberfloete is around NY on Electrola LPs, by the way. But I'll stick by the better-sounding Fricsay set of 1955.

CATCH TRAP (Bradley) -- Where did you get the idea that the authors of paperbound books don't get royalties? They do, at least theoretically -- though I'm still waiting for my first dollar of royalties on any of my seven Ace novels. Hardcover books do seem to bring in royalties more steadily, though that's partly because the initial advances are lower. But I know a couple of authors of Signet and Gold Medal titles who have received quite substantial paperback royalties above the initial (generous) advance. # I'm surprised at Belle Dietz' stand against nudes in N'APA mailings. At a Lunarian Christmas party in 1958, Belle conceived a party game called "Pin the Appendage on the Donkey" which was certainly not the invention of a prudish person. (It was "Pin the Appendage on the Robot," but I've got no corflu on hand.) You can figure out readily enough which appendage the robot was missing. # I for one would be mored thoroughly by a "lengthy paper on the flying trapeze." But I'd be greatly interested in an essay on the movement to organize and make respectable lesbianism -- a movement in which you seem to be active (though, I'd better add in a hurry for the benefit of newcomers, active not as a Daughter of Bilitis yourself but as a sympathetic outsider.) # Okay, I'll bite. What on Earth is this Sharra-Sevensers stuff you and Juanita Coulson have been teasing us with for the past couple of years?

MEMORY BOOK (McPhail) -- A fascinating production, but tantalizing. It's a pity you didn't go the whole hog and reprint the entire first mailing. Only 42 pages, after all. But thanks for giving us at least this much, and please do continue this sort of thing.

STEFANTASY (Danner) -- I hope DAG has a pile of money down on Nixon for Nov 8. By the time this appears, we'll find out whether the Frieda Effect has indeed spared us another term of pithecanthropoids in Washington. # The Doodle on p. 15 was impressive, and so was the color work on the color cover. I like those flat tones.

MOONSHINE (Sneary) -- No, I don't like the idea of setting up a "Senior FAPA." Nor do I like Warner's half-serious notion of dropping the least active FAPA~~s~~ each year. Let's keep the organization the way it is. Conservative, that's me.

FAPULOUS 10 (E. Busby) -- Evidently you don't share your husband's views on government spending and those Democratic rascals who give everybody's money away, or you wouldn't be advocating handing the FAPA treasury off to TAFF and any other winsome panhandling organization that came along. Lifelong New Dealer that I am, I'll fight any move to disperse the FAPA treasury to non-FAPA hands as hard as I would a move to declare Dick Nixon an honorary member.

Silverberg in '64. Separate church & state. Silverberg in '64

KLEIN BOTTLE (T&M Carr) -- That quote about eating people, Rotsler, comes from the Swann & Flanders record, "At the Drop of a Hat." Angel Records.

TIME FINDER (Coslet) -- I know you're a stubborn man, Coswal, and go your own way no matter what we suggest. But --- as long as you're going to do all those word-lists from your various Bible translations -- why not preface the long list with some sort of discussion of the phrase in question, quoting it in context in a couple of versions to let us know what all the variation stems from? From "religiously inclined" and "unusually reverent to the gods" to "given up to demon worship" is a hell of an ideological jump for translations of the same words. How about some text to go with the compilations? Or would you rather just make up lists? The cryptic notes you append here aren't enough.

THE EXPURGATED BOOB STEWART (Carr) -- A lot of this stuff still strikes me as ephemeral, and magnified by your own sentimental recollection of fanning in the mid-Fifties. But one piece makes the whole thing worthwhile, the last one -- "My Day" -- the one about the two teenage fans who, unable to get to the convention, fall back unhappily on a more typical teenage pastime and play and talk baseball on Convention Weekend. Mood, tone, dialog, all come across with perfect effect.

SMALL WONDER (Linards) -- Pataphysics is fun in small doses. But I wouldn't want to read any great quantity of it, while writing it seems to me a profoundly frivolous way to dissipate creative energies.

HORIZONS (Warner) -- I'm one who feels that John O'Hara hasn't been padding. He writes long books, yes, and certainly FROM THE TERRACE was a very long one. But each incident is relayed with an economy and sharpness of prose that shows real discipline. He simply wants to tell the whole story, that's all. A padder could have written those thousand pages and covered a tenth as much material. What's this stuff about "normal novel length"? As Redd Boggs once asked Peter Worzimer, how long should a rope be? # I'd say more than half of the magazines on the stands today are never really copyrighted, and many of the paperbacks as well. A token copyright announcement is included, but the cheapjack publishers never follow through by making proper application to Washington. I'd name names, only some of my own stuff is included and I'd prefer the public to go on believing it was protected. # Thanks for the praise for my "Road to Nightfall" in the FU anthology. I think it's one of my best stories, too -- but I was 19 when I wrote it and couldn't find a purchaser for almost five years. My disillusionment with the "creative freedom" of science fiction began early, you see, and explains a lot of the subsequent hackwork I turned out. A lot of my best-received stories were written before I turned 20, and were sold only some years later on the strength of my name, once I had built one up through frequent appearances. It got discouraging to see the honest, heartfelt ones come back and the cynically constructed stuff sell like wildfire. So I stopped trying. # I liked the details of Hagerstown life, as usual. More.

Dwight D. Eisenhower killed science fiction. Dwight D. Eisen

FAPULOUS 11 (Buz Busby) -- The Democratic Party deserves no praise for its handling of voting rights in the South. But the Southern Republicans have no intention of fighting for universal franchise either. They play a cautious game and are strictly pro-white. Disenfranchisement down there simply isn't a matter of party politics, Buz. Both parties are equally culpable.

SISYPHOS (Speer) -- Jack, it's grand to have you contributing to the mailings once again. But now how about allowing us to read what you have to say? # Taurasi Jr. is five or six years old (or maybe eight) and has done no fanning as yet. Jimmy Sr. added the "Sr." more out of parental pride than to distinguish between a pair of fanning Taurasis, methinks.

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There were other checkmarks and plenty of other good magazines, so you, Exonomou, and you, Graham, and you, Anderson, and you, Kidd, and some of you others, must merely regret that I'm all out of stencils, since now you aren't going to get commented on herein. The mailings are too damn big, that's the trouble. (But I do my bit to keep them down to size.) This has been A Fanzine For Dick Nixon.

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