

S H E L F L I N E ...from (and © 1978 by) Tom Perry for FAPA mailing 165,
November 1978. Besides the membership of FAPA, this will
go to a small number of friends. Terry Hughes for T.A.F. No slice in dining room.

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some comments on mailing 164

THE TIGER IS LOOSE (Boutillier): Your denunciation of Terry Hughes as "fascistic" and (worse!) "unfannish" for not wanting to send you his genzine only shows what a keen judge of character Terry is. And the reply you sent to my recent letter removing you from the QUARK mailing list is almost as revealing. It calls me "dishonest" for changing my mind about accepting your unreadable 5-page conreport as a trade. You serious, Lester? My postcard saying yeah I'd send you a copy hardly constituted a solemn oath; as I recall, it wasn't even notarized. And even if it had been in the form of a legal contract, as you seem to believe, it would not have been binding because nothing of value changed hands. Certainly that conrep wouldn't qualify, even before a jury of fans -- and anyway you now have it back, pristinely unread. ¶ You write, "I'm banned from your mailing list forever and ever, even if we both live to be over 100." Stuff and nonsense, Lester. If I change my mind and decide to send you something I publish, why, I will, that's all. Changing your mind is a good sign of having one. Though your statement in THROUGH THE PAST, LIGHTLY that you were 15 in 1966 (and therefore must be about 27 now) certainly decreases the likelihood that you will someday change into something I'd choose to associate with; I had been assuming, from your writing, that you were about 12. ¶ And as for your complaint in your letter that I have "distorted a charge that Terry Hughes made" -- poppycock, Lester, pure poppycock. I assumed from what you wrote in mailing 164 about having wanted "a cleanup campaign ((illegible word: in? of? for?)) fandom" you meant you wanted to "clean up" fanzines. No? What the hell did you want to do -- go to cons and hose down fans? Anyway, Terry made no "charge" against you; he simply reminded you, in a private letter, of a couple of reasons that he didn't care to share his fanzine with you. You made the charges, Lester, when you published Terry's letter: "ignorance ... bias ... unfannish ... unfair, fascistic ... repulsive" are a few of the things you chose to say, publicly, about Terry. And now you act hurt when a friend of Terry's expresses distaste for the giddy malice with which you toss such terms about. "...i'm still so very misunderstood," you say in your letter. Not at all, Lester, not at all. Your kind has passed this way before, and we understand you all too well. ¶ And so, apparently, do the New Orleans fans who got you to quit the Deep South Con committee. Unfortunately FAPA has no machinery to "ostracize" you as they did; as long as you're a member, you'll keep getting the mailings. So I can't accept the proposal in your letter that we ignore each other in FAPA. As long as you're occupying one of the 65 slots in this fan-historic organization, I think the other members have the right to get whatever entertainment they can from your continued membership, if only in consolation, until that happy quarter when you fail to pay your dues or pub your minac. Certainly I don't intend to deprive myself of the fat target supplied by your comic-strip spelling and sloppy hyperbole and transparent hypocrisy. (Your comment to Patrick Hayden -- "You certainly were impolite to Sam." -- is a beaut, Lester.)

SYNAPSE (Speer): It was a postal clerk in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., who told me to make sure my correspondents used "PO Box x" and not just "Box x," because there were other kinds of boxes. The mailboxes on rural routes are sometimes addressed by box number. ¶ It goes: "It's crackers to slip the rozzer the dropsy in snide." It means it's crazy to bribe a cop with counterfeit money. ¶ "Asked who the civil war would be between"? Alright, mac, what have you done with the real Jack Speer? ¶ I don't find your nitpicking as worthless as I had supposed it would be before I got into FAPA -- "Quite a feat" as a comment on Boutillier's spelling "shoe-in" was entertaining, for instance -- but I do think you overdue it. As to your protracted argument with Creath over "bummed out," I can't believe you find the term so hard to understand, since it simply verbs the adjectival slang form of "wretched or bad" that you can find in dictionaries. ¶ I enjoyed "Scoring"--neat, Jack. IGUALACON: BLUES (Arthurs): I think I shall make a point of voting for Trekkie bids from now on, in hopes that they'll take the worldcon and never give it back. And I shall vote for STARLOG for the best-fanzine hugo. As long as the fanzine hugo is going to a commercial magazine, it ought to go to the best one --- and Dick Geis has taught us that "best" means simply "having the largest circulation." THE BEST LIES ARE OFF THE XEROX (Burbee): Grennell's word "eyecojones" was my favorite line on the xerox, followed by "Smith-Cororary." THROUGH THE PAST, LIGHTLY (Boutillier): Not lightly enough -- I can still read it. Use less ink. HORIZONS (Warner): I applaud your campaign in response to Speer's copynagging. I would join if I ever maid mixteaks. ¶ I agree new members ought to have four mailings to minac. I would also like to see the constitution embody a mechanism for yearly dropping the least popular member, as determined by a poll. We might want a way to override it in those years when we're perfectly happy with all the members, but in other years it would inspire Fapans to more than minac, and it would provide the means for getting rid of the occasional dull obnoxious bores who get in. I find it sad to read in A WEALTH OF FABLE how FAPA lost Willis because it couldn't rid itself of G.H. Carr. ¶ My sister-in-law, who commutes daily from the Philadelphia area to New York City, had a hard time getting smoking stopped on her commuter bus. It was against the law, but neither the driver nor the bus company cared to enforce the law. (The driver said frankly he was afraid to.) Robin took photographs of people smoking and wrote down license numbers of the cars they went home in and, after many rebuffs, found an enforcement agency in NYC that took the offenders to court, where they were fined. And Robin found herself being interviewed by newspapers and TV networks. BLEEN (Grennell): Another Scrabble-hater, by ghod! Bridge would be a good game if not for its players. SNICKERSNEE (Silverberg): "...they'd look at me strangely, as though I were my own statue..." Beautiful. RUNNING (Andruschak): Alix Anne wanted me to give her the photo of the martian sunset. Since she helped run off TEMERITY -- she's only 5, but she stood on a box and turned the crank while I slipsheeted -- I hated to refuse, but I have enough of the collecting bug to dislike breaking up a mailing. Can these lovely things be bought anywhere? Or do you have to be a newspaper to get stuff from the Viking News Center? Congratulations on winning a hardfought race! SAMBO (Martinez): Tivoli left me cold, though I loved Copenhagen generally and what else I saw of Denmark. Did you get to the SF bookshop on St. Paederstrass (spelling correction welcomed)? The drawings of Tivoli are nice. Lifted, I assume? MUMBLE GUTTER (Marion): I too am ordained by the Universal Life Church, in return for a small contribution. What could be more in keeping with the tradition of Christianity?