

First Draft #3 from (and copyright by) Tom Perry for FAPA Mailing 199.
Begun on Wednesday, April 8th, 1987.

FAANTASY AMATEUR (officialdom) Is anyone else disturbed that John Bangsund was able to drop out and rejoin without missing a mailing? I have nothing against John, and might have signed a petition for him if he'd distributed one. But this situation in effect cancels FAPA's activity requirements. John had other options open to him if he wanted to remain a member. I mentioned the petition. Also, up till the deadline of the February mailing, he could have mailed out a postmailing*. Instead he chose to resign and ask that he be put on the waiting list. He got to the top of it and then back into FAPA, even though there were others who applied for membership during the same quarter. I don't know what the answer to this problem is; I suppose it will go away if we can grow the waiting list to a reasonable size. § Now that my name is in alphabetical order in the roster, I'll have to find something else to comment on in the FA. By the way, this Typestar 7 typer doubled the A up there, not me. It looks very fannish, though, doesn't it?

OF MEMBERS AND 'ZINES (Pavlat) Credit #1 was postmailed to all members of FAPA, including extra copies to the Official Editor in case anyone failed to receive one. The problem may be that it wasn't marked as being a postmailing. That's because when I typed it, I didn't know it would be one. It changed from an ordinary fanzine to a FAPazine when I found that Seth had added me to the roster. So you may have given it whatever treatment you give ordinary fanzines. Thanks for putting me in the index on faith, as it were.

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS (Pavlat) I'm glad to see you give credit for letters, even if the FAPA constitution doesn't. § I hope you can arrange to get Bob's history of FAPA published. How many years does it cover? § I agree that some of Eric's poems are fascinating and intriguing. In particular "Love One."

SYNAPSE #197 (Speer) Typestar has some of the features of your Panasonic typer: 6K of memory and the ability to store various texts in it under one-letter "names," for instance, as well as some capability for editing text. The LCD screen is only 32 characters wide, though. Since this is FIRST DRAFT, of course, I don't edit (except to backspace over typos that haven't yet been committed to paper). § You're right that the electronic typers do not make a lot of clickety-clackety noise. This one does make little beeps, though. And it also wipes out television reception for several feet around it. 13 is the only channel I can receive on rabbit ears while I am typing near the TV. I guess that is "noise" of a sort. § Electronic voting (by which I mean the systems that involve punching holes in a card or similar record for manipulation by computer) is subject to so many abuses that my wife and I filed a lawsuit against an election commissioner a few years ago. We had to give it up for lack of support, but I'm pleased to see by a recent issue of DATAMATION that similar suits are under way in several jurisdictions. § I think the waste in wasted words is the time and space you have devoted to identifying ones that you think are unnecessary in others' writing. Redundancy is a feature of human language, not a fault. You could probably read this line if you covered up the bottom half of all the letters in it; that doesn't mean we should all "save" half the pages in our zines by eliminating the bottom halves of the lines. § Use of the virgule, or slash mark, to indicate "or" is established in the legalese word "and/or"; I have seen it frequently in the work of corporate professionals, too. § What is "The Mortal Storm" the title of? § It was Lincoln Steffens who made the statement, "I have seen the future -- and it works!" One biographer reports that he had invented the phrase and was trying it out on people on his way to Russia. The sentence is more famous than Steffens, I suspect; I know I had heard it before I knew who he was. I may have read it first in a book of quotations. § Does "Anne Morrow Lindbergh" win the \$64?

A - 135
111

* See correction on page 4.

First Draft #3 page 2 :: Commenced upon Monday, April 13th, 1987

SYNAPSE 197 (Speer) continued: I frequently have dreams that I can remember, including a recurring dream of wandering in a huge building filled with fascinating books. That building has to be Love Library at the University of Nebraska. I also have dreams when I am half awake sometimes and can control them, knowing that I am dreaming. That's the closest thing to being God that I know of. § I am saddened by the name brontosaurus changing. Apatosaurus doesn't seem as appropriate. § As I recall reading, Searles threatened to send the post office any FAPAazines that seemed to him in violation of the postal codes of the nineteen forties. I don't know if he's changed, but certainly the postal codes have. § My Merriam-Webster New Collegiate Dictionary says that @ does mean apiece, defining it as "at; each" as in "4 apples @ 5¢ = 20¢"; what's your definition? § The comments on the previous page, marked as covering SYNAPSE #197, were actually inspired, for the most part, by the SYNAPSE for mailing 198. Sorry, everyone.

HORIZONS (Warner) I was going to comment on your black humor in this issue -- the wry remark on the first page: "Something would probably come up to interrupt such an effort..." and then the remark about the Confederate cemetery inside -- but it was only this afternoon that you told me of the death of Terry Carr. Black thoughts seem only too appropriate after the loss of such a friend. § In terms of usefulness to the members, now and in the future, an FA listing of the mailing's contents without the tentative additions would seem to be a lot better than the way it's currently done. If Seth listed only what he actually had on Friday night, and then added any corrections in the next mailing, you could then tell if your mailing was missing something it was supposed to have in it, and so could FAPA scholars of the 25th Century. The usefulness of the way it's done now eludes me. § I would prefer to see the mailings go out first class, even if it meant an increase in dues. Book rate can take a long time, and you can't get it forwarded without agreeing to pay the postage for an incredible amount of junk mail as well. § My theory about fandom is that written SF is so vastly more intellectual than radio, TV and movie SF that they are actually different things. My teenage daughter tells me this view is insufferably elitist, but I still believe it. Imagine a classic like "The Screwfly Solution" transformed into its visual form; it becomes simply a love story ending in violence and rape. The violence and suggestion of rape are there in Tiptree's story, all right, but in a very abstract sense; the story is actually about the concept of aliens toying with our reproductive urges to wipe us out -- a variant of the invasion-of-Earth plot. Anyway, granting that point (which I doubt anyone will), my theory says that only a mall -- I mean small -- number of people are interested in such SF, and they need to talk to each other. How then do I account for Star Trek fanzines. Well, I'm still working on that part of the theory. § Four pages of activity every two mailings as a minimum activity requirement doesn't seem like a bad idea. § I owe FAPA some kind of report on my electronic fanzine, but in answer to your question about how much it costs to get started in "electronic fandom," my answer would be that I don't imagine people buying a computer and modem to get started. I see it as something you add to equipment you already have. If you're an author, and have a computer as a word processor, you can buy a modem for a couple hundred dollars and hook it up to the phone line to get going. Or you may already have the modem, too, for shooting important stories about slave girls across the phone lines to your publisher. Or you may be a computer fancier and already log onto mundane bulletin boards. § I never thought about the economic aspect of pancakes before. I suspect most people don't actually order them in a restaurant, but perhaps like to know that they could, since it's a meal with all kinds of pleasant associations, both real and vicarious. § I thought pay toilets had been outlawed.

BEN'S BEAT (Indick) Thanks, I will!

First Draft #3 page 3

ADVOCATUS DIABOLI (Rodgers) I don't propose (or practice) electronic fandom as a replacement for fandom on paper. It's something extra I do. However, I don't see why a fan should care how permanent his words are on electronic media. A conversation at a con vanishes as soon as the talk dies down; why can't electronic fandom work the same way? Most of the messages are not worth preserving. (If they were, you could always print them off on paper -- "hardcopy," as computerists say.)

CHIMAY CHIMAY KO KO BOP (Raeburn) Yes, I was entranced by Treasure Island when I read it at age 8 or 10. This was before Walt Disney ruined it by making Long John Silver into what some litry cricks have called a Good Bad Guy. I must admit that there were some very nice, full-page color illustrations in the book I had. § Talking of what the Disney studio does to stories it films reminds me of Herman Wouk's clean-up of Thomas Wolfe's life for public consumption. I have just been reading a biography of Wolfe (Look Homeward by David Herbert Donald) and comparing it in my mind to Wouk's book named Youngblood Hawke. (All these extra words are in here so that Jack Speer can have the fun of taking them back out again.) Wouk has claimed his book was based not on Wolfe but on Balzac, but that's ridiculous. Wouk's book parallels Wolfe's life almost scene for scene, including the mistress old enough to be his mother, the grasping over money, the early death, and so on. But Wouk cleans up Wolfe: he takes away his antisemitism, his bigotry against blacks, his sexual mania, and anything else unappetizing. He turns the editor, Maxwell Perkins, who helped Wolfe with his best work, into a young woman so that Youngblood Hawke can fall in love with her. Bernard DeVoto, who savaged Wolfe's writing, becomes a dishonest faggoty critic who is jealous of Hawke's creativity. All the decent people in the Wouk book agree that Youngblood Hawke is the best writer that ever lived. There is even a scene where Hawke tells about the epic series of novels he planned to write, just as Wolfe did shortly before his death. I like some other things that Wouk has written, but Youngblood Hawke makes me think of Disney World. Retch. § Gee, you mean I don't have to read WAR & PEACE before I die? That makes me very happy -- very very very very very very very very very very very very very very happy. § Where does the figure \$74,000 come from? Has Moskowitz sued someone else for that amount? I've heard of various suits -- Moskowitzes suing Ted White, Dave Kyle suing a bunch of people for \$25,000, etc. -- but that was decades ago. What now? § Is Pete Seeger in fact a Communist? I keep reading this but have never seen anything quoting him as saying so or proving the matter one way or the other.

DETOURS (Chauvenet) Well, maybe it wasn't respect that got me those looks at Corflu in 1986. Maybe I had my fly unzipped or something. Certainly if there was any respect around you deserved a good share of it, as inventor of the word "fanzine" and first president of the N3F! § Why couldn't mermaids gills be hidden under their arms? § The electronic fanzine runs on an IBM Personal Computer 5150 connected to an expansion box containing two 10-megabyte hardfiles. It's my oldest computer that still runs; the Apple II and the LNW-80 are in boxes in the attic, and my TRS-80 Model I runs a bulletin board in Florida unless it's failed since last time I checked. §

FAPAMENTARY (Brown) No, I haven't read "True Names" by Vernor Vinge. Thanks for recommending it; I'll watch for it.

FEBRUARY FAPAC (Moffatts) Boucher's characterization of God in the Abel murder seems shallow. As the official copper on the beat, He obviously got the wrong man and let the real killer get away. The story needs a real detective (perhaps The Saint?) to sift through the clues and determine what really happened. Neither Adam nor Eve should be ruled out, in my view, and there are always those people in the land of Nod -- maybe one of them slipped over the border? Or maybe Abel faked his own death so that God would wreak vengeance on Cain? The only thing we can be sure of is that Cain didn't slay Abel. Who would buy a book with a plot like that?

First Draft #3 page 4 :: Commenced 5/6/87

Annotation of page 1: The statement that "up till the deadline of the February mailing, he [Bangsund] could have mailed out a postmailing" is technically correct -- he could have mailed out one -- but incorrect in its implication that such a postmailing would have served as his activity credits. A less hurried reading of the constitution shows that as far as renewal credentials go, FAPA memberships end on the deadline date of the fourth mailing -- even though elsewhere the constitution says that a postmailing is considered a part of the previous mailing. In essence, then, a postmailing to the fourth mailing of one's membership year counts as renewal activity for the next membership year, even though it is part of a mailing of the previous membership year. This arrangement is there evidently because it allows the secretary-treasurer to know how many empty slots are to be filled from the waiting list; without it, he could not invite new members in at least until the deadline date of the next mailing. ¶ I continue to believe that we need a way to delay members who resign or drop out from lacktivity from immediately re-applying and getting ahead of new blood on the waiting list. It will be hard to build up a healthy waiting list if we treat new applicants shabbily.

SPIROCHETE (Boggs) The interlineation about how interesting it would be to meet an uninteresting woman reminds me of the paradox of "interesting numbers"--i.e., those numbers which have special qualities, such as being prime, or the lowest even number, etc. The paradox is that the first number which has no interesting characteristic becomes the first uninteresting number, and therefore interesting. Which in turn reminds me of a chapter heading in a little book on logic called I THINK THEREFORE I LAUGH: "Ther are three errors in this line."

INTERJECTION (Chalker) Considering the number of people who own vinyl records and the price of Compact Discs, I would think it's not necessarily "too late" to sell a device that plays the vinyl records by sensing the information with a laser beam. Where did you hear one of them play? (You say they sound "real good," so I assume you have.) § Many of the bulletin board systems use fan terminology without any help from Pournelle; many are run by fans, or SF readers who are conscious of fandom. § You can access the noncommercial bulletin boards cheaply through PC Pursuit, which is offered by Telenet. You can make all the long distance calls you want for \$25 per month. The catch is that the calls must be to 25 city areas and after 6 p.m. and before 6 a.m. Best have something to read while waiting for a connection, though, since you are now subject to TWO busy signals: one from the trunk line access to the remote city, the other from the BBS you are trying to reach.

HICKERY CHIPS (Hickey) WordPerfect does double columns very nicely. You can even see them on the screen before you print anything

THE DEVIL'S WORK (Metcalf) As one who has published corrections to some of Moskowitz's articles, citing sources, I know that he doesn't exactly welcome such corrections. I think it must be my articles that Moskowitz is referring to at the bottom of page 47, though I would hardly recognize them from his summary. § If the word "scientifiction" appeared on the spine of AMAZING STORIES, perhaps Gernsback had to use another term after he lost control of that magazine. Peter Roberts once told me he knew a source for the term "science fiction" dating before the turn of the century, but he never supplied the details. Has anyone else heard of this? § We'll see if the electronic fanzine inspires any works that deserve reprinting for those without computers. It has, been mostly in the other direction so far.

520 07 0328 (Perdue) I didn't know that AA required a belief in Ghod; congratulations on doing it on your own. § Are the good guys smokers, by you? Your suggested surgeon general's warning reminds me of a bumper sticker that says CANCER CURES SMOKING. § I thought that the FDR assassination attempt was in Miami. § Excellent story about Descartes! § Let the Japanese "conquer us ... by purchase"--then we can nationalize everything and keep their money too.

--Tom Perry, 5/6/87