

SONOMA #4 from Norm Metcalf, P.O. Box 336, Berkeley 1, California, and temporarily (until the USAF decides otherwise) at Box 1262, Tyndall AFB, Florida. This is intended for the Mar 64 NAPA mailing, God and Summerfield (who has shown his displeasure by holding the mlg until 7/15 Feb) and whoever the new Postmaster General is on the return trip.
Crudpub # 19

Vaux Hall Fanatic #? - Seth Johnson

Thanks for poking fun at the idea of segregating NAPA by age-levels. Some of our younger fans are more mature than some of their elders.

Holding a con in the Virgin Islands wouldn't save any money. The transportation costs, alone, would more than offset any savings from lower liquor and cigarette taxes. (Besides, how would Ellik hitchhike to the con?) Furthermore, who would put it on?

Seth, you're right about exhausting sf topics in apas. There's only so much to talk about, only a certain percentage have read the stories under discussion. "Degenerative feedback" takes place and soon everyone is quite bored.

I'll disagree with you on your idea that the N3F is a portal to fandom. Sure, it can be, but at present it isn't. (See later sections and Don Francon's letter.)

The main requirements of w-lers in other apas is asking the OO so as to demonstrate continued interest. At some time or another FAPA, SAPS & OMFA also demand credentials.

I don't think postmailings should receive credit. They cause confusion by non-delivery or delay in arriving, complicate bookkeeping in the OO, etc.

No Place #3 - F. M. Busby

Producing pages for the sake of having a big mlg seems rather ridiculous, even if done only once.

I was rather expecting an activity chart from Pelz this time but since you went to some length and Pelz to none (though he might have one in this mlg) I'll stick my neck out and essay one.

The title of the zine using Fantastic which you're trying to remember was the original Fantastic Science Fiction and it lasted two issues (two or three more issues than it deserved).

For other variations on NAPA try Society Neffer Amateur Publishers, Society Publishers Amateur Neffer (ja, mein herren), etc..

Guano #9 - Art Hayes

Your interpretation of the Postal laws is all wrong. The proposed postal amendment applies only to second-class matter. Fanzines are third-class. (Though a kind, obliging, atypical postal clerk here at the Base P.O. found a reg which says non-fiction fanzines qualify for Book Rate. So keep the fiction out of NAPA and drop the postage.

You're right that issuing a book club selection usually kills sales of the trade edition. However, mystery and sf trade editions mostly go to collectors and libraries. Prentice-Hall and other publishers make their money from the book-club edition, not the trade edition (and the book club edition may be the actual first). Anyway Prentice-Hall apparently gave away all copies of the FU Omnibus, hi.

Look, how can, as you claim, NAPA accept material with prior distribution. It violates Article IV of the By-Laws.

Rache #1 - Bruce Pelz

My suspicions as to the derivation of the title were confirmed in the first page of text. But then you expected me to get it anyway. Too bad, Ruth Berman isn't a member.

Sorry, but I won't join in on your apa chess game. I haven't played chess for years and don't have the time to properly learn the game. (Which translates as: "There are other items which I consider more important.")

Polhode #3 - Ed Meskys

Armstrong: Since when have Damon Knight reviews been appearing in Fantastic?

Rapp: There's a great deal of truth in your article on banning letter substitutes from full consideration as fanzines. It's true that some of them aren't worth any one's time. It's also true that some are. So why jump on all at once? Let the editor trade with whom he wants (which is what he's doing anyway). A great many "fanzines" (as distinguished from "letter-substitutes") aren't worth the postage used to send them out. Your fundamental error lies in equating crud with letter-substitutes for the sake of writing an article. You're barking at a shadow here. The article should have concerned itself with crudzines, regardless of type.

Waugh: Jack Williamson isn't a pseudonym as such (his legal name is John Stewart Williamson) but "Mark Twain" certainly is.

Why Not #2 - Cal Lewis

"Similar solutions to similar problems is not slavish copying." Bravo for those words. We have some who feel that any common item with another apa will destroy our identity or something. Pox on them.

As a matter of fact, the entire issue shows awareness of problems and constructive criticism leveled at those problems. No doubt this was one of the factors which lead to your being appointed as Public Relations man for the N3F.

The N3F is sick, even though some refuse to admit it. There has been little but stagnation in the N3F for a long time (though with some of the feuding going on, even standing still is a worthwhile accomplishment). As you point out, the influx of "barbarians" has brought fresh viewpoints into the N3F. Perhaps something can be accomplished with the organization.

Presently I can see only one use for the N3F: recruitment of neos for general fandom. Towards this end we should re-direct the membership's efforts. (There are other objectives but they require more co-operation as Cox, Sneary, Boggs, etc. found out when they tried to re-vitalize the N3F.)

Once the Neff can provide a fan with genuine services unobtainable elsewhere then the Recruiting and Welcoming functions need overhauling. Read Bob Leman's bit in The Vinegar Worm V2#1 or Franson's letter in this ish.

Poul Anderson's chess story in F&SF was "The Immortal Game".

Snowstorms on the 4th of July aren't rare. Ask anyone from western Argentina or eastern Chile. Seriously, they occur fairly frequently in the U.S.. There was about a 10 foot fall at Crater Lake, Oregon 4 Jul 48.

Denver was thinking of bidding for the '64 Worldcon. Roy Hunt still has nightmares from the Denvention which he put on with Lew Martin and Olon Wiggins. He certainly didn't want to go through that again. I pointed out current-day examples of What Happens to Con-Committee Members and they decided to leave well enough alone.

Vaux Hall Fanatic #12 - Seth Johnson

To answer your questions as to what the N3F and NAPA mean to me here goes: The N3F is a do-nothing organization with plenty of potential (unrealized). NAPA is a chance to communicate. As for "improving" each I think my views on the N3F are fairly well expressed quite often in this ish. As for improving NAPA it seems a matter of eliminating the deadwood and riff-raff and having the remaining ones participate more fully. And in addition we need to recruit some worthwhile members. Too many of us are regarding NAPA as a seventh-rate apa (which it is right now) and therefore not worth bothering with. This part is a vicious circle which is destroying NAPA. By putting crudzines through the mlg you merely stimulate more crudzines.

Seth, the repro method you're wanting to use in pubbing a letterzine is an offset press, not a multilith. But it still wouldn't help. Direct reproduction of letters would be impractical on several grounds. 1) Not all letters would be suitable for photo-reproduction. 2) The resulting conglomeration would be a mess and not worth bothering to read.

I have read Flayer Piano and didn't think much of it. Vonnegut wasn't being realistic in his extrapolation. One of these days I might go back and re-read it. A really destructive review would be easy to write then.

Pro editors are willing to devote space to worthwhile fan activities of interest to the rabid sf reader. They're not going to waste space on something holding little interest to the average sf reader.

Critique #1 - Bruce Henstell

If you're ever going to postmail again, try using postage stamps.

Nebulous #1 - Phil Harrell

If you need a printer there are several fans who would help you out. One who has a Gestetner for your Gestencils is Shelby Vick, P.O. Box 269, Lynn Haven, Florida. His rates are 1½¢/sheet (50 copies or over) + shipping charges. Write him for more details.

Kaymar #? - Kaymar

Your idea of letting member's "buddies" pub in the member's place has several disadvantages. One large objection is the ensuing complications such as if your plans change. Another item is that you're by-passing any higher w-lers. But you can always staple the pages in with your own (at least a cover) and technically avoid the situation.

You ask why fans are harping at the N3F. It's quite simple, the N3F is a danger to fandom. You recruit a sf reader and then if he discovers fandom it's by pure luck. Result, one less fan. Another aspect which bothers the rest of fandom is the self-righteous attitude of 'we're the only trufen' or 'we're the only fans', etc.. If you don't believe me just ask some of the other active fans or read Don Franson's letter in this ish.

Perhaps the basic fault lies in that there's no useful purpose to the N3F these days. Anyone with something worthwhile to do either doesn't join or he quits. As a result the N3F has acquired a large share of fandom's dregs who like to be big frogs in small puddles.

On the radiosonde find there should be a plate with instructions for returning it to the Weather Bureau. On second thought the practice might have been given up. I seem to remember an article in QST on how to convert them to amateur radio uses but I may be wrong. At any rate it's only a weather data broadcaster and has nothing to do with UFOs.

These indexes represent a lot of work gone to waste. There are numerous errors and omissions which the use of both Day's indexes would spot in a jiffy.

Quoth the Walrus #10 - Ralph Holland

Rather than forcing a prospective member to wait until his name is listed in TNEF why not require him to send his N3F dues to the OE?

The laugh's on you, Ralph. If the SFG ever gets their apa going one Californian apa-completist is eligible to join, myself.

I-Numenorean #2 - Jack Harness

Jack, were you trying to play games with Belle Dietz on this title by also using "BNF Special" "Obscene Matter" and "I-Numenorean" around the zine? However, she got the last laugh on you by listing the zine under something which you didn't suggest.

The Red Cube - Ron Haydock

If you're going to use mcs to run down mcs then you stand convicted, out of your own mouth, as a...shhh...hypocrite.

Help! - Ron Haydock

Such a listing wouldn't be of much value. Zines appear, hibernate and disappear with such rapidity that you're wasting your time in trying to compile a file on fanzines.

N.A.P. Yap - OE

To correct the zine listing it should read:

Johnson	Vaux Hall Fanatic	7	6	
Dockinger	Hocus #17	11	4	owes 2 pages
Busby	No Place #3	6	6	
Hayes	Guano #9	8	7	
Metcalf	Sonoma #3	6	6	
D. Anderson	The Cry of the Wild Moose #2	23	23	
Pelz	Rache #1	6	5	
Meskys	Polhode #3	36	5	owes 1 page
Haydock	ape #2	13	5	
Harrell	Nebulous #1	8	7	
Carlson	Kaymar	21	20	
Carr	As I See It	4	4	
L. Anderson	The 7 Eyes of Ningauble	7	7	
Hannifen	Neofan #1	11	40	
Holland	Quoth the Walrus #10	6	6	
Harness	I-Numenorean #2	9	9	
Haydock	The Red Cube	2	2	
Haydock	Help!	2	1	
Dietz	N.A.P. Yap	10	28	
		196		

Postmailings to 6th mlg

Higgs	Fanden #3	8	4
Meskys	Peskys (Part #2)	10	10
Cal Lewis	Why Not #2	20	19
Higgs	Fanden #4	10	4

two additional postmailings to Seventh mlg

Johnson	Vaux Hall Fanatic	16	10
Henstell	Critique #1	8	6

© doublespacing doesn't double your page credit

\$ the title isn't "BNF Special"

printing a zine longways on the page doesn't double your pagecount

% note correct page count

* cribbing from, ~~the~~ Times plus using other's artwork and reprinting old bacovers doesn't boost your page count.

& there's nothing in the By-laws to give you credit for the OO, at any rate you only have 2 pages of original material in it.

NAPA's AP. Activity Chart

NAPA	FAPA	S.F3	OMPA	CULT	CRAP	IPSO
D. Anderson						
Larry Anderson	WL	WL				
F.M. Busby	x	x	1			x
K. Martin Carlson						
G. M. Carr						
Joe Casey						
Wayne Check						
Walter Coslet	x	x				
Deckinger	WL	x	x			
Dietz			x			
Gerber	WL	x	x		WL	x
Hamlin						
Hannifen		WL				
Harrell						
Harness	x	x	WL	x	WL	
Haydock						
Hayes		x	x			
Henstell	WL	WL	WL	WL	x	
Higgs						
Hill						
Holland						
Jennings						
Johnson						
Mich Lewis	x	WL	x	WL		
Cal Lewis	WL					
Lichtman	WL	x	x	WL	x	x
Main	WL	WL	WL	WL	x	
Meskys	WL	WL				
Metcalf	WL	WL	x	WL	x	x
Noc						
Pelz	WL	x	x	x	x	x
Prieto						
Raybin						
Taurasi	x					
Wanshel		WL				
Weber		WL				
Woolston						

So temporarily, at least, apa completism is back between Lichtman, Pelz and myself. But Harness and Main (who have given up before) may decide to join in again. Henstell is apparently going to try though he hasn't announced any such intentions.

You've got my dues and membership expiration all fouled up again. My NAPA membership expires in Dec 61 while my N3F membership expires in Dec 62.

Oops, I've omitted a footnote. 1 represents the fact that Elinor Busby is on the OMPA w-1.

LETTERS DEPT.

Donald Franson, 6543 Babcock Avenue, North Hollywood, California

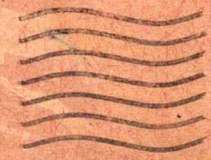
Dear Norm,

Comment on Sonoma #3. You sound very angry at the N3F, and I'm not saying that I blame you, as I'm getting a little fed up myself. I didn't realize that all the stories about it were based on truth, with only a little exaggeration. I got some nice welcome letters, but every one of them gave me the impression that they weren't welcoming me to "fandom" but to the N3F. I'm really disappointed in this, because if I were a new fan from the great outside, I'd want to learn about fan activities, fan clubs, fanzines, what fandom in general is doing, not just what the N3F is doing. Round robins, and all the N3F activities probably wouldn't interest most new fans, so they don't become active Neffers -- and not being told anything else about fandom, they never become active in anything. This strikes me as a narrow viewpoint -- it's almost as if the N3F is afraid the new members will find out about the rest of fandom. None of the Welcommittee letters I got -- none -- mentioned fandom outside the N3F. And this is not because no one recognized my name, except Marijane Johnson, and possibly Bob Farnham. Janice Brodsky sent a very nice letter, but why are they recruiting neofans for the Welcommittee? In Janice's case it's alright, but you would think this important committee would be staffed with one-year or two-year fans who not only know all about the N3F but all about fandom too? You say Neffers know little or nothing about the rest of fandom. I now believe you, and I think there should be a committee for bringing Neffers into fandom. This organization gets all the neofans and then lets them die on the vine -- or by sheer good luck they find out about fandom. (See Bob Leman's story in The Vingar Worm.) True, Ralph Holland puts a lot of information into The National Fantasy Fan, and is obviously willing to put more. Perhaps it is "outside fandom" that is partly at fault that the N3F doesn't know about it. I think this could be corrected by some kind of a news and info sheet to go to N3F members, perhaps with TNFF. How about kicking this idea around in NAPA? N.P.A., of course, is not the N3F either, anymore than the small group of active letterwriters is, but it would be a good forum for discussion. 1. Bring N3F back into fandom. 2. Restore the good name of the N3F. 3. Make N3F a gateway to all fandom. 4. Then all fandom will want to be part of the N3F, and remain so.

Yours,
Donald Franson

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FLORIDA

Return Postage Guaranteed



Terry Carr
1818 Hearst —
Berkeley —
California