

BLACK BIKE TEN

Produced and directed by Leigh Edmonds of PO Box 74, Balaclava, Victoria 3183, AUSTRALIA for the 102th mailing of SAPS.

MAILING COMMENTS ON THE 99th MAILING: Strange as it may seem the 99th mailing of SAPS finally arrived and I just can't pass up the opportunity of commenting on it, even though any comments are going to be awfully old by the time SAPs get to read them. Better late than never as a footballer would say.

0-0: I don't know what gave me the idea that I only had to send only 33 copies of my contribution to SAPS. Perhaps that used to be the copy count or something (it sounds a terribly familiar number) and my mental processes just back-dated themselves a little.

I was a little astounded when I had heard what happened but being a tranquil sort of person I didn't let it upset me any.

I can see where the trouble arose that both John Foyster and I didn't get our mailings straight off, both of us are listed in the Membership Roster as having changes of address and the new addresses are old addresses which we both had over a year ago.

In Memory of Gregor Samsa: Usually when people write about books they have read I just pass them over simply because I haven't read any of them. Gasp and Gag, not only have I read "The Maze of Death" but also "Lathes of Heaven" and, of course, agree with you about both of them. In a lot of ways I was upset by the Dick book which had such a simple explanation at the end and needs only a simple extrapolation from there to allow for Jesus (I can't remember what he is called in the book) coming on board the ship. On the other hand the book was very intricate within it's framework and was the only book I read last year which was completely unputdownable.

Moon Bane: Going to sleep during the day time is something that I don't do very often at all but I do sometimes come home from work pretty buggered and lie down to sleep for a couple of hours before I go about my evening type activities.

The only place where I go to sleep consistently (apart from in bed) is at chamber music concerts. The Amadeus Quartet were in town the other day and I attended of Beethoven quartets they did. I particularly wanted to hear Op. 135 but before that they played Op. 18/2. I remember the first two movements of the first quartet but I must have dozed off and didn't wake up until the last movement of Op. 135 which was disappointing but even that was magnificent. I once slept through just about a complete Bach concert (which isn't too hard to do anyhow) and one time I remember being at a concert where the performers played Schoenberg's 'Verklarte Nacht' which I knew almost by heart at that time, and being very surprised that they left out a great chunk of the middle. I don't remember dozing off or waking up but that is the only explanation I can think of.

Libel: I'd agree with you about the state of current Genzines except that I don't get any. However, those I do see don't impress me very much at all and I'm wondering if it's just an effect of having been exposed to them for so long. I'm sure that if I were just new to fandom I would be quite excited and impressed. The most enjoyable fanzine I've read in some time has been a copy of YANDRO and when things get to be like that I'm sure that something isn't quite right, nothing against Buck or Juanita though.

I suppose that YANDRO must be the longest running genzine/personal zine in existence.

Rave Review: The only thing I want to know is why I got two copies of this, the rest seems to explain itself pretty well; as you said. My opinions on the war in Viet Nam are neither here nor there really and I suppose that it is just one of those unfortunate things that happen and nobody can do a thing about it.

Tell you what though, I haven't bought a paper today but the headlines which happened to read over somebody's shoulder on the train screamed "NIXON: PEACE WITH HONOUR". I really felt like buying a copy of the paper just so that I go over and confront Nixon and screw it up and jump up and down on it. Whether the war has been just or unjust the one thing that it hasn't been is honourable and I don't see how it can come to some sort of honourable conclusion - Nixon is either selling out the South Vietnamese or he isn't. I suspect that he is doing the former which is a shitty thing to do to a people that he and his predecessors have been screwing up for the last few years. Now that he has got them to this stage the only honourable thing that he could possibly do is to wipe out North Vietnam completely because it is the only way that he can save South Vietnam.

Anyhow, honour is a rather outdated sort of concept and it rings too much of Chamberlins' statement in 1938, "Peace in our time". Crap.

Retro: Pity that Buz isn't around any more, I really enjoyed this and had those silly little marks all over it to be commented on. Such a waste.

In Memory of Gregor Samsa: I used to have a copy of the Emerson, Lake & Palmer 'Tarkus' which I played about three times and just about chundered all over seeing as how I thought it was so bad. Then I happened to be at the Sydney convention and told John Bangsund about it and he said he wouldn't mind having it so he bought Valma and I lunch and I later sent him the record, and good riddance.

Later I got a letter from him saying that it was fantastic and he didn't see how I could have parted with it. Well, better him than me, I guess that our ears just aren't in the same place as far as rock and roll goes.

99 SAPS Bottles: Quite a few places around Australia are named after what the Abbo said to the white man who asked where he was. In a lot of cases the Abbo would have said something like "pretty water hole" or "land of the green shrub bird" or something equally banal but I

wonder sometimes, in moments of perversity, how many places around Australia translate from the native tongue to mean "Oh shit, not another one of 'em" or "Bugger off honkey!".

Smiles and Grins: The way I usually make time to contribute to apas is to take a day off from work and slave like mad. My last contribution to SAPS was done after I'd done a contribution to APA-45 and ANZAPA, the trouble being that it was Sunday when I did the SAPSzine and I couldn't go out and buy any more stencils to replace all the ones I'd used for APA-45 when I got carried away. The picture on the front page of BLACK BIKE last time wasn't there because I like to publish pictures but because I typed on an old stencil which I'd already started on before. I was desperate at the time.

\$50 a week can't be that much and I am led to understand that the cost of living in the US is higher than it is here and even so I would have trouble living on that pittance. I suppose that I could live on it if I wanted to but as off a couple of weeks ago Valma and I have decided to become capatilists if we can and that means making a hell of a lot more money than we used to.

We are being helped along a little by the fact that Valma has just got herself a job working as assistant to Ron Smith (whome some of you might remember from the fifties - published INSIDE and so on) who has a pornography business which makes lots of money and we are now bringing in about twice the amount that we were making between us just two or three months ago (like I got an upgrading and a couple of pay rises and stuff as well). We haven't decided what to do with our new found wealth yet but I'm sure we'll think of something.

The Yellow Radiance and Silly Stories: It's okay fiction Burnett but not the sort of stuff that sets me on fire. I really liked some of the 'Silly Stories' for their inventivness and seemingless endless imagination but the plots were a little so-so. Not that I can point the finger because when I was about that age I wrote long and boring descriptions of space ships docking at space stations and other like stuff.

The Prisi: A while ago the people who make aluminium cans for soft drinks had a big publicity campaign going based on the proposition that and aluminium can can keep a drink colder longer than a drink in a steel can. I never did get a can of each sort of metal and try it out for myself but it seemed an odd sort of thing to me because at school we were taught something to the effect that a body losing heat is more concerned with its surface area and it's mass than what it is made out of. I would have thought that a steel can would have retained its coldness longer than an aluminium can but maybe I've overlooked something. Does anybody know?

David Grigg (a local fan involved with a publicity campaign on re-cycling steel cans) once told me that even if all the steel cans were re-cycled but a few were overlooked they would rust away but aluminium cans that are not re-cycled will not rust or anything. Oh well I said in an "I've heard it all before" tone of voice. Then he croggled me by saying that the 'pop' tops (or whatever you like to call them) on steel cans are made out of

aluminium and won't rust away or whatever. Wow, I went. I could just imagine in a few hundred years time the road sides littered with tons of iron oxide and three feet deep in strange little tear-drop (kinda) shaped bits of metal with rings on the end of them.

Don't Gimme THAT Bull, Pasiphae: Too many jokes and not enough comment hooks, not that I didn't like the jokes. They reminded me of the one about the surgeon at the party. It seems that he arrived late and when he was pressed for an explanation he said that he had had to perform an emergency operation. After a bit more leaning on and a couple of drinks he confessed that the emergency operation had been that he had to cut off a mans penis. "Oh!" exclaimed the hostess, "did you have to cut through the bone?" whereupon everybody rose to their feet and applauded her husband.

Por Que: I've no idea why fellows seem to spend their holidays at their girls' place though I suspect it is because they have been sweet-talked a great deal.

Spending last Christmas up in Brisbane was a good time, the first real relax I'd had in years. What is happening this Christmas is that Valma is going to visit her mother and I'm going to go and visit my parents. It's a good idea and I'm looking forward to is. Besides, Valan will be away for about a week and in that time John Bangsund is going to be down in Melbourne and there is not a better drinking companion this side of the black stump. I haven't had a good booze up in years - I'm not sure that Burnett would approve - but it makes a change from being sobre.

I really like the Coca-cola sealers, we don't have anything like them here, just nondescript plastic things and now that they are selling Coke in the new litre bottles with the screw-top lids you don't even get that. So much for progress.

Foonbang Journal: I don't believe that John Foyster and I have ever been in two apas together at the same time. We were both in SAPS for a while there but he wasn't in ANZAPA then and as soon as he dropped SAPS he was conned into rejoining ANZAPA. And I think that it was his dropping out of FAPA which made room for me. How considerate of him, but then John is always like that.

As things stand though I really don't notice any cross over between seeing the same people in different apas. A couple of the people in both SAPS and APA-45 only stick in my mind as being from one of those apas and I hardly remember them from the other - the only person who does stick in my mind is, of course, Seth.

It would be a physical impossibility for everybody in Australian fandom to be in ANZAPA for there is only room for 30 members (even though there are only 20 members). Surely you don't think that Australian fandom is that small?

Ignatz: If you can ever make it across to Australia (1975 might be a nice time) I'll invite you around to our place where you will see a strange and wonderous sight. I will usher you into the lounge room and turn off all the lights except the small one mounted above the fire place.

Then you will behold one of the wonders of the antipodian world, the original X-ray of my tooth as it was just minutes before they ynaled it out not a year ago. You will gape, you will be amazed.

Collector: I have noticed that there is a rumor floating around that you are running for TAFF. If it so it is a very good thing and somebody had better send me a TAFF form so that I can give you a vote.

Spacewarp: When it was into making plastic models a lot I had a bottle of some incredibly foul smelling chemical which used to eat away polystyrene and which I used to use on all sorts of little fiddly bits which would suffer too much if I used ordinary glue. It was very handy stuff but one time I spilled the bottle over a T34 I was making and the end result was beyond all description. I would love to see that effect that it would have on styrofoam if it did that to good old solid polystyrene.

The National Library in Canberra is supposed to get all magazines published in Australia - it's the law. I used to send them the stuff that I did a few years ago but I don't bother now and they've given up sending me nasty letters about it. When I first sent them RATAPLAN they wrote back asking if they could buy copies of all future issues, two copies in fact. I don't know if I was supposed to send them a free copy as well because I just didn't get around to sending them anything else.

Spirit-led Camel: I guess I write just about the same way as I talk except ofcourse that I leave out all the "you knows", "Well, it's like's" and the "well I'd's" and all the obscenities. In apas atleast I write like I think but if I'm going to write an article I sit down and think about it a little bit and sorta plan out what's going to happen and all those things you do when you write an article. Not that I write very many articles since most of my fanac these days is mailing comments and short ideas off the cuff and you get out of the way of writing articles if you don't do it often enough.

I really liked your first page about falling in love for 15 seconds.

That Old Venusian Rot Doctor: You more or less had John Foyster right on both counts, he used to be a school teacher before he went back to the university and now he's working fro some sort of placw which is involved with teaching systems, I think. As for how old he is, I think that about 30 is as close as you'll get. He's one of those people who looks anything from 25 to 45 depending on how you feel at the time.

And since he's dropped SAPS he's taken up a very interesting past-time, fanzine publishing. He's back in ANZAPA (for the 3rd time) and the first issue of his news-zine 'CHUNDER' is out sometime over the weekend. Now Australian fandom can boast of two news-zines "Norstrilian News" (the Locus of Down Under) which he started a few years ago and passed on and now "Chunder" (the Focal Point of the Antipodes). I wrote two small articles for CHUNDER just today, one was called "Australia in '75 Committee Mixes Business with Pleasure" and the other "Insults and Sly Innuendoes for all at Degraives". Real good fun.

Green Roses: SRAS seems to be the apa where it's members talk about all the other apas they are in, so I may as well be in it and make a mention of ANZAPA, especially since you are talking about sick apas. I re-became OBE (Official Bloody Editor. - the sort of joke that people not in the British Empire might not get) three mailings ago with the 23rd mailing. the 23rd came to 67 pages and had a membership roster of 29 (the previous OBE had been extending memberships to deadwood), the 24th mailing came to 135 pages and had 21 members on the roster and the 25th mailing (the 4th annish) had 240 pages and 18 members, the only member who didn't contribute was Redd Boggs.

Pooka: I don't know how many picture theatres there are in Melbourne but there must be a hell of a lot and thence there must be a hell of a lot of pictures being shown. Somehow, though, I just don't get to see any of them. I look at the paper every so often and say to myself that I must get to see that and that and that but it never works out that way. The last film I got to see was 'The Last Picture Show' about three months ago and even though Valma and I had planned to make one particular weekend a "going to see picture shows non-stop weekend" an audition for the Melbourne Theatre company came up that she went for and I did a SAPSzine and a couple of other things and that was the end of that brilliant idea. I do get to see the occasional film on the telly but I suppose that that wouldn't count.

South of the Moon: ANZAPA is a bi-monthly apa based in Australia. Membership is 30 (but a constitutional ammendment on the books may cut that down to 25) and the copy count is 40 (though another proposed ammendment may cut this down to thirty). Membership fees are A\$3.00 per year payable with the August mailing or pro-rata depending on when you join. The activity requirement is 6 pages every six months and the deadlines are around the 10th of February, April etc. (the OBE announces the exact date of the deadline in the previous OBO). The reigning OBE is Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 74, Balaclava, Victoria 3183, AUSTRALIA and he is quite willing to run-off any stencils from overseas members and send them their copies of the mailing airmail just so long as they make up the difference between that and the money it would cost to send the mailing surface. ANZAPA stands for Australian and New Zealand Amateur Press Association (even though there has never been a New Zealand member. Overseas members are welcomed and encouraged as much as possible.

I hope that that information will be of some use to you, I know that it is late but maybe you can use it still somewhere. The list of all those other apas was interesting but I don't think I'll be tempted just at the moment thanks all the same.

Stumping: "Your point of view is interesting at times", you said and earlier on in the mailing Nancy Rapp said "You're weird..." so now I'm beginning to wonder if I've got BO or something. Perhaps it's just that hanging on for grim death down here we get to see things differently. I mean, if you had the toe development that I had you'd be sure to consider things from a different perspective. Have you seen the Rotsler Australia in '75 badges yet. At first I thought they had made a mistake in printing them but then I got the joke. Anyhow.

KAPUT