

Bobolings had to sit on the back burner for the November and February mailings due to press of other circumstances, but Bobolings never pretended to be regular, and never achieved regularity except for the six or so mailings which ended with the August 1978 mailing. This and the thirty prior issues are the product of Bob Pavlat, currently residing at 5709 Goucher Drive, College Park, Md 20740.

Mailing Comments: Mailing 164, August 1978

Synapse You state some things very well. "The purpose of the foregoing is not to argue that the amendment needs to be clarified. It needs to be defeated." A bit formal, but nicely direct. Other constructions such as "Peter Roberts has a weakness for stereotyped pleonastic phrases: end result, full well, period in time." may mean something, but not to me. ++ Warner went to bat for Martin in mailing comments, in reprints, but did not petition on his behalf. Boggs came down loud and clear on the "Fapa did Martin wrong" side of this case. ++ J. Everett Osbourne was a postmaster who objected to Rotsler's "Vote for Ike, he's been sick" messages on the outside of envelopes. His name was substituted for Ike's in the message. ++ What is "the sacred chocolate-covered cabbage?" ++ On page 7 you say "What dread disease white space? Space has no spectrum." On page 6 you say "I'll use this erst white space to comment..." ++ Anti-Fan was the villain in one or more Aussie fan movies. ++ In the Chauvenet phrase you wondered about, "n BNF," n stood for an unspecified number. ++ "Limited" used in reference to trains meant limited stops I believe. In other words, an express.

Iguanacon I'll happily leave the details of Iggy politics to those Blues who know what happened. Which nobody does, thanks to the number of lies intentionally stated. Conceptually I liked the idea of Phoenix as a worldcon site, but I'll never again vote for a site without knowing more about the people involved than I did about the Phoenix group when I voted at Kansas City.

Temerity Have you produced in mailings since the promised more about Ricky Slavin? I wonder if I'm even recalling the right person. 1947. Philadelphia. A girl from the NYC area, possibly 17 or thereabouts. Heavy, tough, and more than a bit odd. If this was Ricky, then she'd be at least ten years your senior. +++ I've never been able to hear the Marry, Mary, merry pronunciation differences which are alleged to exist. I believe that, as you stated, they are pronounced the same in the midwest, and my ears, which grew up in the same state as yours, hear only the 'Perry' rhyming vowel.

++ You aroused my curiosity about Worldcon dates. Nycon (39) was over July 4th, Chicon (40) was held over Labor Day, Denvention (41) went back to Independence Day, and Pacificon (46) was also Independence Day. Warner's All Our Yesterdays says a poll was taken of preference prior to the Pacificon but the results were never announced. The Philcon (47) was Labor Day, and the Torcon (48), held on July 4th, appears to have been the last non-Labor Day con (excepting, of course, the usual August date for oversea cons.)

Le Moindre It was good to see this extra issue. Interesting trip account. I don't think I'd be comfortable in Tangiers. I'm an easy mark for a good salesperson, I'd never haggle enough over price, and hence I'd buy little and get taken for the few things I couldn't resist.

Horizons I'll confess that I've laid a number of Speer's fanzines aside because of annoyance with nit-picking. It's a pity, since I've missed much of Speer that I doubtless would otherwise have enjoyed. I'll not join you in neglecting corflu. My typing is ragged, and failure to correct my many errors which I sense as they occur would detract from my own enjoyment, much less that of any readers. ++ Somewhere in Maryland the Maryland and Pennsylvania ("Ma and Pa") Railroad evidently still runs. Or so it should, since a

Ma and Pa

freight car appearing to be not more than three years out of the paint shop recently caught my attention. I'd known the Ma and Pa only from models, particularly two famous Consolidations they once ran. I know the N&W ran in your area, but what about the Ma and Pa? You mention the sound of the locomotives. I'm no expert, but I doubt if they were all that much different. Major US locomotive power around 1920-1950 in the east probably centered on not more than a dozen basic designs. (I'm excluding, of course, the Heislors and Climaxes and Forneys used in logging and narrow gauge work, and I feel confident that the UP Big Boy and other large articulateds never made it this far east.) The valve set-up was, I believe, fairly standard (Southern Pacific differed from the standard, but I don't believe many others did) and hence I'd expect the sounds you heard on the lp came from highly similar engines to those you heard in Hagerstown many years ago. ++ I believe the joint members provision was right for Fapa when it was adopted. The Busbys, the Shaws, the Youngs, the Coulsons, the Linards, the Breens--Fapa would have been poorer without the joint provision. (Not true for the Breens, since they carried separate membership, but particularly true for the separate but equal work of Jean Young, Andy Young, Larry Shaw, Lee Hoffman Shaw, FM Busby, and Elinor Busby.) Peggy Rae and I have for some years been the only remnants of separate activity with joint membership left in Fapa--strange in a way since I crystallized the joint membership policy set by the ST before me, before I was married. The policy has had its problems upon dissolution of marriage, and has been abused at least once ("Sandi White"), but some of the possible problems you cite were long-since solved--e.g., either occupant of a joint is entitled to single membership upon demand providing their "imaginary" waiting list position is within Fapa. And I know that sentence won't make sense to a new member, but you can recall the Young and Shaw split and should know what I mean. What's needed for a rational approach to the question raised by the defunct Hayden amendment is not debate about administrative matters, but some appreciation of whether it would actually affect Fapa. I, for one, don't have the data. In the 50's I knew or knew of a good three-quarters of all fans, or so I would guess. Today I don't know or know of 1%. Maybe the final answer is return to single membership, but with the single allowed to frank anything (any fanzine thing) produced by his roommate of the week.

Bobolings "The Temple" was an attempt to clear a block. The next FAPA BOOK was (and will) to cover the Martin expulsion period. I couldn't (and can't) easily cover it. I thought that this treatment might clear the block. It didn't. But I was disappointed at the reception, for I had expected some recognition of the allegorical elements. I was too subtle, or too obvious, in my "double doors" and "three minutes" and "68 revolutions" and "larger rooms."

Notes from Spring 78 and Summer 78 issues.--Long though you've been Arinam in Fapa, and even though I've met you in person, I still feel that I know you very little. But every time that I think I've come to know you a little better, I feel that I've come to like you a little better. This is not to express an overcome of dislike, but merely that I find that you're on the other side of some wall from me, hidden in mist almost opaque to my eyes, but with goals and aims and thoughts much like my own. ++ Retirement eligibility is twenty months away for me. I will assuredly try to retire before the proposed merger of civil service retirement with Social Security. That merger would indeed be one forged in hell. ++ We must be close to the same age. I'm 53. So our knowledge of the Great Depression must be similar in directness, though not necessarily in degree. "Didn't have much money then but didn't need much...." Agreed. "Got more money now, can afford to buy less." But as I type this the family watches the upstairs TV (the one downstairs is off), two cars await orders in the driveway, at commercial break there are two toilets available for the rush, two dictionaries sit on the table because I wanted to double-check the origin of "abyss," usw. Maybe I remember 1936-40 too well. One dictionary--a Winston dad won in a sales promotion. One radio, at a cost comparable to a 19" color TV today. Two cars pre-35, one a pick-up for the store, the other a family sedan; then none; then back to a family car after the loss of the store, the move east, and the reconsolidation of the family. I'll agree--there are money problems today. If you think that they are comparable with those of the 30's take a second thought on then and now. But despite all that I agree with your sentiment.

Bleen The Mercedes engine and transmission would probably run forever but that Mercedes suffered from a fatal case of body rust. There was strong evidence that that car had spent a couple of years in Galveston and that, coupled with poor rustproofing on Mercedes of that vintage (1960) did it in. She sagged in the middle like an old farm horse when we disposed of her.

Snickersnee That was mighty fine chatter. Enjoyed.

Sambo This also was particularly enjoyed. You and Bob didn't trigger any comments, but your two fanzines were as enjoyable as any in the mailing.

Parergon One of the interesting aspects of Australian fandom is Papers that most of you seem to be serious science fiction fans in addition to leading both mundane and fannish lives. This collection of Aldiss-related items was an excellent example of the serious sf interest. I even read and appreciated most of it. Very well done.

Mumble Gutter. Your interest in the world is a delight. Sorry the accident of location in the mailing holds you to such brief comment, but this page ends the mailing comments.

Kittle Pitchering... This was a reasonable contribution.

Private Book Collectors... Fascinating. A nice addition to a good mailing.

Comments on the 165th mailing should start on the next page, but for a moment I want a break. I like doing mc's, but when I'm holding them down they are hard work. I've not allowed myself the time that I should have for this issue, and will probably only get through the November mc's.

I've frittered away much of my time, of course. Reading. Rediscovering and applying myself (with not too much success) to Go--a game I'd not touched since long ago when I played it with Ellick and Chauvenet--to TV, to the yard, usw. But part of the time problem stems from family.

Mom's 83. 1978 was not a good year for her; she aged rather sharply. Mom's a Christian Scientist, and lived a remarkably doctor-free life. Between 1936 and 1978 I believe she saw only two doctors: one for a gall bladder problem, the other for an elbow fracture. In December it became obvious that mom was fading faster than could be accounted for solely from the aging process. An operable cancer was found in December, and was removed; but it was identified that the cancer had spread and was generalized. She never really snapped back from the operation, and has been in a nursing home since. We visit her most nights, typically for only a few minutes, but it does take time. About two weeks ago mom took a sudden turn for the better. Her appetite came back, her sometimes-shakey memory started to improve, she indicated less desire to sleep and more to get up and about as best she could. We don't know what the future holds, but obviously mom will receive from us as much time as we can give her in the months ahead.

Today, however, was Missy's day, from roughly noon till 7 pm. Not all of it--Peggy Rae and I had an enjoyable couple of hours to eat; and to drive in Washington's beautiful spring while the kids had a swim party--but most of the time was devoted to Missy and her gymnastics. Two cameras and our minds hold the pictures, while four ribbons sit next to me, waiting to be added to Missy's scrapbook. Second, Uneven parallel bars. Third, vaulting. First, beam. Second, all around. (She placed fifth in floor, no ribbon for that.) As usual, the unexpected. She'd never before won a ribbon on beam, much less first. And she seldom misses first on the uneven parallel bars. Second all around was interesting--her good friend and prime opponent on the other team tied her for that spot.

Missy's best today was 7.0 on beam. Her best ever was an 8.9 on bars. That day she deserved that score--judges at small meets will vary; but in general the results are fair. The -9's are Olympic calibre. 8's can capture a State title or make you a strong contender. 7's look nice. 6's are ok, but even the casual observer will probably spot flaws. 5's show you're trying and 4.0 seems to indicate that you showed up for the meet and event. Rather like wines, where the typical 0-20 scale is used, with 12 indicating a wine without serious flaws. (Don't knock it. It's a composite of scales involving clarity, acidity, and various other discrete elements. The scale has its flaws, but the results are highly meaningful if you understand the scale.)

And so, I guess, the break is over. Back to the mailings.

Mailing Comments: Mailing 165, November 1978

The Fantasy Amateur I believe that the last time the FA had a cover was way back when the Trimble's were OE. Or perhaps someone else in the LA area was OE but Bjo supplied the covers anyway. There were complaints then by people who couldn't find the FA. Ah, yes, the super race. ++ Jack, if there were any errors in the ST list, I didn't find them. Good show.

Fantasy I've never been able to tolerate Stapledon. Dull and Commentator trite is my reaction. But this article by Sam has to be one of the best that Sam has done--I think we see the editor's hand at work. Good job by both. I admire a fanzine such as this, and this one is particularly fine, but a typical Fapazine (whatever that may be) is more to my liking. ++ Who is Lincoln Van Rose? Ray van Houten (sp?)? I'm not sure whether this "Book Review" was a book review or a commentary.

Horizons When I was OE, the FA was usually printed in advance, save only the cover page listing of contents. Bundles usually went to the PO on Monday or Tuesday, and I believe the latest was a Thursday, with about one-third having been mailed Tuesday and another third Wednesday--all dates the week after deadline Saturday. ++ I wish that I, as a Government worker, participated in these alleged high pay rates for Government workers. In principle, our wages are comparable with industry. I know that in the occupations I'm sufficiently close to for me to have worthwhile knowledge, we lose as many people to industry as we recruit from industry. That implies fair comparability. There was a recent headline, "costs double in last 11 years. I checked Government salaries at that time versus 11 years before. The salaries had doubled. Cause or effect? My own impression is that we keep six months to a year behind. ++ Using Washington as an example of Worldcon planning and hotels, there's only one hotel large enough for a worldcon. Labor Day is a slow period in DC hotels. In 1977, the hotel was still unbooked for Labor Day as late as that spring. In other years the hotel had two or three tentatives lined up behind our own tentative, two-plus years in advance of the convention. It will vary. But if you want to bid for your city (not just a city), and some specific year, you'll have only a couple of hotels possible. Many non-sf cons book five years in advance. An SF con is big enough to carry clout, but so does AAAS, ACS, APA, etc. IN DC, Harry, I've done the job often enough to know. And I have been the hotel man. Two years is minimum. You've harped on this subject for a long time Harry, and that's fine--but how about some hard fact contradicting what I know is true here? ++ Why did Ricky Slavin call you? Do you appreciate Ricky Slavin? ++ Robert G. Thompson was a FAPA charter member. ++ I fully sympathise with the thoughts you expressed to Tackett. I well know the feeling, and share it. A lot of us do--I'm sure you noticed Chalker's joy in getting away from part of this rat race as he expressed them in the Feb 79 mailing. I've drawn back from cons to some extent, and I've wondered if part of it isn't this same reaction--the little shithead with the knife is there, and I have no need to be the same place. ++ I've often wondered why Martin claimed there were "50 papers" in the 7th Fapa mailing. There were more nearly 25 (including four with the name Futurian in their title--shades of that Fantasy Commentator book review of Knight's The Futurians!)

Just brought Missy home from Wednesday night gym. Late news flash. They miscalculated her score. She was first all around. Now, back to the mailing.

Mumble Peggy Rae read your comment about me ("who seemed to be a Gutter out-going, friendly sort of person"), read it to me, and then said to me: "I think Tim has you confused with someone else." ++ I don't think that the chain of communications between Iggy, Pavlac/Smith, Hevelin, and others is established. At least my information differs from the info you gave in your comment to Arthurs ("...reports didn't mention the fact that it was Rusty Hevelin (among others) who gave the disastrous

reports of Ross Pavlac's meeting with Larry Smith, etc., back to the IguanaConCom.") ++ The sniping you mentioned re South of the Moon is more of the same intolerable behaviour mentioned by Warner and commented on above.

Floccipaucinihilipilification Damn but I'm glad that every time that I set out to write you an mc you're there to spell Floccipaucinihilipilification for me. ++ Four hours for a loc. That sounds realistic, though I'm sure that many of mine exceeded that back 15+ years ago when I wrote locs. There were two differences. Yours are good. And yours deservedly see print. I tried, once upon a time. I couldn't do it well. And the time was too much. ++ Your bacover--the Doug Rice cartoon with the Ref standing on the J. Everett Osborne box--was a better answer to Speer's question of Osborne's identity than was my mc a few pages back. ++ Come visit us again.

helen's Fantasia Don't you DARE change the title. Wessonmale might not always be willing to double print that I to change it into an I. The added shine of the double inking can be seen if you look for it, but the register is fantastically good! (I still feel that the word should be "registration." Danner said back about 1960 that "register" was the word. Having seen the weights that printers so casually fling about, I'll take his word for it.) ++ Lovely cover picture (you before Sherlock Holmes Pub). ++ You sure do leave your audience on the edge of their chairs. Perhaps a result of your training by Burton Crane? I couldn't find the promised account of your visit to the Cassadage, Florida, medium., and your statement that your incident was weird has certainly received my attention. I wait... ++ Melissa speaks of you often. Eric, when he mentions our visit, is more likely to mention your dogs, or the printing equipment downstairs. I'm sure you understand. Helen, earlier in these mc's I was wondering who might be around today that could provide some rational comment on Knight's The Futurians. There aren't many--Blish is one of the few whose views I would trust, but he's gone. You were young, too young. But what about Burton, or your old friend (and ex-Fapan) Bill Groveman? Did they move at all around that circle? Would they comment?

Speed of Mike, you presented the StarTrek game you played--making Dark a good presentation of that was not easy. I know. When I considered doing the same thing I decided that it was too much work. That's when I threw out the various printouts I'd

retained of games I'd played. If you care, I still have a 32K Basic program (by Alt and someone else), which was about the best of those extant in 1975. The Pavlac game obviously either used it as one of its sources, or both drew upon a common source, for many of the elements of play and--more significantly--the wording of some of the messages are too similar to be coincidental. However, you played the game wrong. I was taught how to sign on. Period. I learned every damn trick (and I didn't learn them all until some months later when I acquired the program) by trial and error. I'd never even been on-line to a computer before! Talk about your Sleeper Awakening! It was as near to a Rip Van Winkle experience as is possible. I guess I'm a fast study, however. I only once ventured beyond the limits of the universe. And I only once blew up a sun. Not too bad, for someone who had to discover all the rules for himself. (Well, maybe not all. The opening instructions did define vectors. And energy levels. And quadrants. And asked if I wanted further instructions. I said yes. The computer said: "The idea is to kill Klingdons," and away we went.)(OK, I've dug into the files. The program listing that I have is by Leedom and Ahl, Creative Computing, May-June 1975.) ++ I don't think the genziners revived mc's in FAPA, assuming that they have been revived. Or maybe I'm just not well enough informed on who the genziners are.

The Nasachrist You took over as OE in November, right? That's when you were supposed to. Or maybe your comments about taking over "one mailing early" means that you did the work on the August mailing? ++ I enjoy your fanzines and the NASA material. And I might as well add here that I enjoy getting the mailings on time.

Damballa I'll say again that I like your covers--your linoblock (?) work is very nice. You screwed up your page sequence in an interesting fashion. Much better than the simple reversing of pages technique used by some of our members. ++ Doggerel doesn't bloom unbidden in Fapa. It's just that most of what appears isn't worth having.

The Great Australian Novel You sound almost serious. Why not? Your novel probably wouldn't top the best-sellers here. There seems to be nothing about Watergate or Presidential assassinations, and the Westgate bridge disaster just is not an adequate substitute. You could work something in. Karl is a natural for the part, and you only have to expand upon his visit to America, or perhaps have him come back after his trip to South Africa. Since his duties in South Africa relate to the colored problem, you could even involve him in our Martin Luther King slaying, which is almost as high on the hit list as are Presidential assassinations.

Quantum Do you really hold onto things for as long as this indicates? Sufficit You must, since you had them to print.

The Definitive History of Iguanacon Yes, but will anyone believe it?

Shelf No check marks, but thought I'd say that I enjoyed your Life writing.

Mutterings from the Teapot. No checkmarks, but that's ok since you find stale mailing comments to be tasteless. The Shadow index --make that the Shadow Mailing index--that I did last August marked the first time I'd ever opened most of the fanzines. There were mc's there addressed to me. I had great delight in reading them, and time had not dulled their taste at all.

The Tiger I thought that the earliest known sign of man in the Americas went back to only 25,000 BC or thereabouts. I can accept that as prehistoric, but when you're talking of Amerinds even 1400 AD is prehistoric. Considering the extensive finds of fossils in America, it appears relatively certain that man has not lived in the Americas for anything even vaguely equivalent to his history in Asia, Europe, and Africa.

Synapse. A better issue than the one before. ++ Appreciated your comment re panics and depressions rather than inflation when money was backed by gold. ++ Dzigdzig sounds right. ++ The &erson Gap is the void that Karen fell into when she left Fapa, the six-year period from which there are today no active Fapans. ++ Your quote from James Gates Percival was apt. I don't think that I would want to read much of his tortured writing, but he dealt nicely with this subject. ++ Tighten the lid on the Kenosha Kid.

Someone in the mailing just reviewed asked if Phil Harrell hadn't once put out a Shadow Fapazine. No, he didn't. He did send out a thing that he called (working from memory) a ShAPA magazine which he mailed to the Fapa membership when he was on the waiting list. Believe that was in 1966 or 1967, shortly after the real Shadow Fapa had gone down the tube.

I had hoped to also review the February 1979 mailing. Time apparently will not permit. One nice thing--most of the comments you receive on anything in the February mailing will be in the May mailing. Since my comments won't appear until August you can always hope for some belated comment.

Now for the proofreading and corflu. This issue needs it!