

Dedicated to the proposition that in FAPA 'tis better to be thot a fool than to be thot dead.

This issue dated February 1958. Published for FAPA by Bob Pavlat, 6001 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland, primarily because I want to insert a few mailing comments on the 81st mailing.

The last day or two the radio has been exhorting me to Smoke Big O. Everyone remembers Big O, and while GMC or MZB may have made a fire out of Big O, I doubt if even they smoked it. Belatedly (this is on-stencil typing) it occurs to me that they might have smoked at it. I feel sure that any such reaction would have cheered Les and Es muchly, since that's one of the main reasons they published.

The Rex Rotary, I find, takes a little getting used to. All my previous machines have been manual, while this one is electric, and that too requires some acclimatization. This was proven to me when I ran FANZINE INDEX included in this mailing. Once or twice I forgot to fill the ink reservoir (a seldom-required but none-the-less essential job) and pumped the handle like a fool before finally realizing that the reason the copy remained light was because the reservoir was dry. Thus, some of the pages of FI aren't as dark as I'd like. On some pages of some issues there are streaks of dark versus light inking--again a result of poor ink control on my part, letting the page get too light and then pumping rapidly rather than slowly, resulting in undistributed strips of ink. Finally, almost all copies have ink strips down the edge of many pages. The Rex Rotary takes an extra-wide stencil (it, like the Gestetner, can print edge to edge on 8½" paper) but the stencils used on FI were standard width--i.e., the same width as the paper. On several pages I goofed and did not exactly match paper and stencil, or put the stencil on at a slight slant (the Rex has a nine-hole header-bar and will not accommodate American four-hole stencils) thus resulting in striped edges. After I had run off all pages of the FI included in this mailing, and five pages of the next issue (no, by golly, it's seven pages) it occurred to me that I could mask the edges. Real bright, me--almost a ream and a half of paper it takes me to discover that! I'll master the monster yet. And don't let me kid you--I love it!

Many moons ago Ed Cox asked me to inform FAPA that Lee Jacobs could not be reached at 984 South Normandie. I note that this address popped up in this year's Directory (Bennett for TAFF). Nothing sent there will reach Jacobs. (The address given for Cox is still current).

Yes, I do back Bennett for TAFF. To the best of my knowledge there are four TAFF candidates, Bennett, Berry, Newman and Wild. It would not be possible to select a poor candidate from among these four. I like Bennett best because from what I can see from where I sit, he is the most rounded fan of the four. But regardless of my own preferences I would like to see enough money in TAFF to bring one of the four over. Ballots will be out soon. Even if you don't vote (and surely most of you must like one of the four enough to want to meet him/her) a few fifty-cent pieces might make the difference between having a TAFF visitor and not hav~~ing~~ one in South Gate.

The 81st FAPA mailing was pretty stinking good. I'm not going to review everything, but I do want to comment on some magazines which I particularly enjoyed, the first of which was

THE FANTASY AMATEUR.

You know Evans, and White, and Eney, we've been missing a beautiful chance for collective egoboo. Let's start patting each other on our collective backs for the fine job we've done (that is, the three of you). Even if we do goof now and then. I goofed in saying that the Myer's decision was solely mine--I keep forgetting the system of reviews Evans and I worked out on denial of activity credit, and forgot in my report that Myers had appealed my ruling.

THE RAMBLING

FAPs. I liked the poems (tender poems of the Old Spaceways) in #13 muchly. Reminded me a bit of Rapp. In #14, in your review of the FA, you set forth your views that something on which credit is denied should not be included in the bundle. Perhaps true in part, but assuredly not in toto. Evans and I, if you'll remember, objected to one of your proposed by-laws on the basis that it confused the duties of the OE and the ST. The same applies here. The OE determines which magazines go in a mailing. The ST determines which magazines, and which members, receive credit for material in the mailing. The two functions are not the same. Granted that in this and in the previous administration the OE and ST have lived in the same general area, and the ST and OE could possibly have reached a working arrangement. But it isn't necessarily true that the ST and OE will always live in the same area. Further, nobody--ST, OE, or anyone else reads everything in the mailing before you get it--we have, for instance, received as much as 265 pages of material for the mailing on the mailing date. Who could thoroly evaluate that for credit on the mailing date? The material is given a fast glance for mailability and sent out. The ST later has a chance to sit down and evaluate the material and see if it suits the membership-credit tests (or principles if you prefer) that have been announced. You also ignored the statement in FA 79: "It isn't altogether that I don't read my own declarations, but if you will read the President's message you will see the reason for the inclusion as Horrible Examples...of two items in this mailing which shall be nameless." Now I'm not saying that any of the three you named are either of the two left unnamed by Eney, but.... # Despite the fault-finding above, I thot TRF was one of the most interesting magazines in the mailing. As someone said (about your comments on cats) you have a very nice way of giving your reader your viewpoint, and it makes what you have to say not only highly readable but also very warm and friendly.

SPUTNIK. I don't

recall if this was where you mentioned the new addition to the Grennell household Dean, but congratulations in any case. Two additions really--Phyllis and Phyllis H. # Your memories of the people out of FAPA aren't much different from mine. Stanley I remember for FAN-TODS which lasted up until 1948 and was extremely good while it lasted. I wish D. B. Thompson was still in FAPA. His PHANTEUR was one of those typically FAPA magazines which are all too little appreciated. I read both FAN-TODS and PHANTEUR as "collected" items--that is, I had almost the entire file available at one time) so maybe I was overly-impressed with their characteristics, but the memory of them is a fine thing. Was it you, Dean, that asked about the meaning of YHOS? Your humble obedient servant. # Baltimore can now be semi-by-passed; the old route with some 40 traffic lights has been replaced with a tunnel and only one or two



stoplights, and thus the primary driving bottleneck between here and New York has been eliminated. The only bad stretch left is Route 40 from Baltimore to the Delaware Memorial Bridge. # Many's the time I've heard women insist that they aren't slaves to fashion, and in part men are the greater slaves--as anyone who's worn a suit and tie on a hot day should admit. But the sack is back, and God (sic!) knows there is no excuse for anyone wearing that abortion except that she is a slave to fashion. Both sexes are crazy about some things, "some things" fortunately including the other sex! The fact that you don't wear a "sack" has nothing to do with it, incidentally--neither do I own an "Ivy League" suit nor a hat. Both fads are real, despite the holdouts against fashion. # Your mimeo trouble must be due solely to the ink you use. Pads should need changing only rarely, and with even half-way regular use, the ink holes should never clog. # Various comments this mailing forced me to dig out the 80th mailing to catch the referent--once I had to go back to the 79th mailing. But tell me, what did Len say where you said he should have said "don't get your tentacles in a turmoil." Oh hell--just typing it reminded me. # Yeah, and Laney from Oregon, Anderson from D.C., and 4e from San Francisco. # Nobody ever seems to mention those minor touches that go so far in transforming a good magazine into a memorable one, so I want to say that I appreciate your crack about fugue-heads, as just one of many dollops you included in Sputnik. # I'd like the answer to your "4711" query too. I used to live at 4711 - 35th Street. # In re Japan, I don't *know* how true it is but I've also heard that prior to WWII they named one town USA just so they could label goods Made...oh, you've heard it already?

ALIF. "The Birth and Death of a Fan" reminded me muchly of LeeJ. He came into fandom thru the Welcomittee of NFFF, he didn't write Tucker, Boggs & Eney to my knowledge but he did carry on a frabjous correspondence with the Coles and Meg Johns; he subscribed to SPACEWARP and joined SAPS and FAPA; he didn't play ghoddminton but did make the 1952 (?) con in England; ignored Japanese and Arapesh but brushed up mightily on his French to take care of his little nymphomaniac in Paris, was an early tape-recorder fan and we all know that he was finally gobbled whole by a sports car. # Burleson croggles me.

SF50Y. There should be a special FAPA award for fanzines that give one the urge to Get Out And Publish. SF50Y was that way for me--so ghod damn enthusing! But is the next issue due in 2007 or in 1982--whoever said the next issue was due in 2007 on page 0 must plan to dispose of the other. This would be a shame. Bloch's abuse of Tucker and vice versa are fine things to see. But either abusing any other fan would not be suitable at all. A Bad Thing, compared to SF50Y which was a Very Good Thing.

REPORT ON THE LONDON CONVENTION. Thanks for putting this in the mailing.

HAEMOGOBLIN. The intent of the "reprint" passage in the proposed new constitution is to prevent anyone using the same eight pages for credit year after year--an idea that apparently never occurred to even our worst hangers-on, but which should still be covered in the event of any future bright slaggards.

PHANTASY

PRESS 15 /FAPA MEMORY BOOK/ A beautiful job Dan. This is a credit to both you and Parker, and compares favorably with all other "project" type fanzines I've seen.

((This page is started on the last standard size stencil that I own. I feel that I have accomplished something, but I wonder why.))

LARK. I wish there was some more positive way to express dissatisfaction with advertising than by not buying the produce advertised. Taking advantage of "money back" offers and returning mail literature without an order are two ways, but neither really satisfies the needs of my soul. # I believe you know that a quarter horse is a relatively light horse primarily adept for range work. Very fast starting and turning, lots of "savvy" and fast over short distances, with stamina but not speed over longer distances. I think it was White who confused the quarter horse with--of all things!--Percherons and other draft horses, so let this stand as part comment on NULL-F. # Your review of HORIZONS where you said the book Dag mentioned was real was the comment that forced me to trace way back to the 79th mailing. Grrrr. # Lark was short, but goodness still isn't measured in number of pages.

GAVAGE. I apparently wasn't reading when you mentioned it, but what model Rex Rotary do you have and how does the ink feed on your model work? Your results look like you use what they call their emulsion ink rather than the liquid ink that my model uses.

HORIZONS. Two melodic lines is definately my limit, and even that I cannot do regularly. # I'll now admit that the mailing wrappers used on McPhail's PHANTASY PRESS were not identical. Some lacked quotes, a couple lacked the question mark after "Have you kissed your wife this morning?" and one had either the opening or closing quotation mark, but not the other. # Sky-watching, I understand, has been discontinued. Too many flying saucer reports maybe? # "Where Old Fans Go" was nicely conceived. Was it by coincidence or intent that NGW started legibility at the time this story appeared? (Some people have informed me that Norman was legible last mailing, but this I refuse to believe.) # I was knocked unconscious once, in a backward fall off a swing onto a concrete garage floor. (Yes, the swing was in a garage.) I was about twelve at the time. No particular reaction that I recall, just some awareness that I had lain there for a while after falling (the fact that I did lay there a while was verified by two friends who were present) and a headache for the rest of the day.

THE FOSSIL. Shades of old fandom! Appreciated very much.

PHLOTSAM.

Phyllis, I made no marginal notations on this. I was having too darn much fun just reading it! This, plus Sputnik, plus SF50Y are the reasons I have a review magazine in this mailing. You have a technik of some sort that results in your writing about just what I want to read about at just the time that I want to read about it. I'm not going to review PHLOTSAM here; it would take pages to really express myself. (By the way, you got all out of order in these reviews. I was going down the FA roster and sorting the next-listed fanzine for review as its name came up in the FA. Somehow, PH got shuffled onto the top of the stack and when I saw it sitting there I entirely lost track of the sequence in which I was reviewing the mailing. Let me shuffle back into sequence.

GEMZINE. You must quit this. I agreed with you entirely too frequently this issue. This doesn't mean that I agreed with you very often, but even twice is unexpected, and thrice is revolutionary. # I'm still not in favor of the way you print letters (with frequent interruptions) or your selection of letters (too many on too many subjects) but it's your fanzine....



You are probably right that if we (meaning the allies) had kept out of the Russian-German fracas, Europe would now be different. Either Russia or Germany would have won. This would be better than what we now have? As you point out, there is little choice between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, but there is a heck of a lot to choose between Russia confined to the land mass it now controls versus either Russia or Germany controlling the entire European and Asian continents. If the US hadn't gotten into that war, it would really be in sad shape today. We made mistakes, of course, such as letting Russia control the area around Berlin, but we avoided the biggest, stupidest, most costly mistake of all--that of sitting here letting the Germans and Russians fight it out, and thus allowing one to gain control of two continents. # Your item on the drinking habits of teen-agers was well taken. # Geis apparently irritated you. Half a dozen suggestions could be offered to Dick. Form a new apa--you've got 39 or so prospective members just from the FAPA waiting list. Join an apa with a shorter waiting list--SAPS or OMPA. Submit a proposed revision to the FAPA constitution to enlarge the membership when and if you get in FAPA. I sympathize to some extent with Dick's burning ambition to join FAPA now, because it is a long wait down there on the waiting list, but darned if I like the idea that FAPA has a moral obligation to let Geis and other waiting listers into the group forthwith, anymore than Dick would like being told that he had a moral obligation to continue publishing PSYCHOTIC in the format and style he used four years ago just because most fans happened to like it. The egoboo is nice, but that doesn't revive PSYCHOTIC and, for my money, it doesn't get Geis into FAPA any faster. # Natural selection (or, rather "unnatural" selection--but still the survival of the fittest) still operates. Trouble is that society is now so structured that many of the naturally unfit are protected. "Fittest" must mean most adapted. When nature adapts to the unfit (and in today's world nature is, for a person, the society in which he lives) then the unfit to "natural" conditions may become perfectly fit under the new circumstances. # Ghaaa, you've ruined my life Gem. Not only do I find myself agreeing with you too often, but I find that I must thoroly disagree with friend Derry. Since none of us knows perfect truth (excluding a certain reputed resident of the holy city) we must get along on imperfect laws. When a law is discovered to be imperfect, it's time to change the law, now to slavishly re-align yourself to fit the law. The constitution of FAPA is not perfect, and certain of the imperfections have been discovered. "1984ish and history rewriting" are about the most foolish arguments I've yet heard about the proposed constitutional revision. Chick, I guess you know that if one of your children ever marries in the state of Virginia it will be because some character out of 1984, some history re-writer, has gone and changed (on dire word) the Virginia constitution. Your children have 1/16th or more Indian blood, and that prevents them from marrying a caucasian in Virginia. Hells bells you two, there are at least three kinds of change: good, bad, and makes no difference. Why don't you sit down and think about the contents and effect of the change and then determine whether it's good or bad, rather than classifying change as bad without analysis of what the change is. If you don't agree with me, then why try to improve your fanzine? Change is bad. # I failed to see the sneer in the English article concerning the mechanic and the stenographer in the ritzy Detroit hotel. # Quite a few discoveries have been made by people refusing to accept authority. A prospector that goes looking for gold in a spot where a geologist says there can be no gold may be very stupid. I'll not speak for gold, since I know little about the subject, but I do know that oil has been found in many places where geologists have insisted there could be no oil.



Man would know little indeed if he always stayed within the limits of what authority told him was so. # If what McCarthy had was courage, I'll take cowardice every time. #

LE MOINDRE. Speaking of Buck Rogers, he's back in the Washington papers. Buck doesn't look familiar at all to me, but I spotted Dr. Heur instantly. # Enjoyed.

TOUGH TOENAILS. I'll bet Jack takes you up on your crack about Scientology. # The contrast between your three items and the two items submitted by Calkins was truly amazing. Calkins sounded very warm and interested in living. Optimistic, waiting for tomorrow expecting it to be even better than the rather nice today. You sounded highly discouraged. # Is the "absent-mindedness" that is "characteristic" of "eggheads" a result of your definition of eggheads, or is it merely something you're repeating from a stereotype?

NULL-F. On the cover I've written "If some trees are desiduous, are the others insiduous." Wish I knew why. It must be a supposedly clever remark based on your spelling, but in the cold light of day it doesn't look so darn clever to me. # Your remarks on Schaffer versus nudism and the probable moral upbringing of Ray agreed fully with my own reaction. # My comments on quarter horses are under the review of LARK.

BIRDSMITH. Freight trains were ferried across San Francisco Bay, from SF to Oakland or that general area, as recently as 1951. Seems possible to me that they might have done the same with passenger trains at some time in the past--particularly during the war. I checked four road maps and two atlases, but can find no information on this. On page 133 of Caen's Don't Call it Frisco I do find the quote "The Bay much bluer than it is now, with the S.P.'s white ferryboats sliding past the Key Route's orange ones...." which does indicate the possibility that the Southern Pacific does run ferryboats on SF Bay, but not what the ferrys are used for. # Pants probably could be removed over a leg iron. Simply slide one leg of the trousers up the chain fastened to the leg iron. # On letting a beard grow for a picture, wouldn't it be easier and cheaper to have the actor grow the beard before the shooting started, film the scenes where the full beard was required, cut off a little, film scenes not quite so far along in the picture, etc until eventually you're shooting the beginning of the picture with a clean-shaven man? # Thanks for the reprint of the article on improvisation. It didn't answer all my questions, but it sure helped. #Morse and you are always interesting.

TARGET FAPA. Your general discussion on intelligence and learning was fine. Sometimes closure occurs even more suddenly than you indicated. One chimp, for instance, was given the rather frequently used problem of how to reach a banana with two sticks, either of which was too short by itself but which would reach when fitted together. This one chimp by-passed the experimentation stage. He studied (or appeared to study) the situation, examined the sticks, joined the sticks and got the banana. Most of us have done something similar with mechanical puzzles of the bent nail variety. Or let me quote this: "The bird-feeding station stood on the lawn before my bench. Whoever had erected it was a bird-lover, not a squirrel enthusiast, that much was certain. It was on top of a section of thin pipe stuck upright in the ground, and over the end of the pipe half of a bread can had been inverted. The thin, smooth pipe and the bread can were to keep squirrels from the little wooden platform and roof where the birds congregated to feed. The feeding platform was attached just above the tin shield that protected

it from the squirrels. ...

"In the space of the morning I watched five squirrels lope easily across the lawn and try their wits on the puzzle. It was clear that they knew the bread was there--the problem was to reach it. Five squirrels in succession clawed their way up the thin pipe only to discover they were foiled by the tin umbrella around which they could not pass. ...

"There was a sixth squirrel that came after a time, but I was bored by then, and only half watching. God knows how many things a man misses by becoming smug and assuming that matters will take their natural course. I almost drowsed enough to miss it, and if I had, I might have gone away from there still believing in the fixity of species, or the inviolability of the human plane of existence. I might even have died believing some cross anthropocentric dogma about the uniqueness of the human brain.

"As it was, I had just one sleepy eye half open, and it was through that that I saw the end of humanity. It was really a very little episode, and if it hadn't been for the squirrel I wouldn't have seen it at all. The thing was: he stopped to think. He stopped right there at the bottom of the pole and looked up and I knew he was thinking. Then he went up.

"He went up with a bound that swayed the thin pipe slightly and teetered the loose shield. In practically the next second he had caught the tilted rim of the shield with an outstretched paw, flicked his body on to and over it, and was sitting on the platform where only birds were supposed to be. He dined well there and daintily, and went away in due time in the neat quick fashion by which he had arrived. ..." (Quoted from "The Fire Apes" by Dr. Loren C. Eiseley (Univ of Penna anthropologist) as printed in New Worlds of Modern Science, edited by Leonard Engel for Dell pocket books--an excellent article in a fascinating book.)

TYKE. You use the term IQ quite freely, but I'm coming more and more to think that you don't know what it means--or else my definition differs so from yours that I can't dig you. Definition please? # The 80th mailing represented the end of FAPA's 20th year, the 81st was the first mailing of its 21st year.

CELEPHAIS. Thanks for your extensive comments on the constitution. # You cite Thomsen and Berthelot as two individuals whose scientific data is valuable even tho the conclusions they drew from the data are generally worthless. I wonder how many other people have reputations built on data gathering rather than the purpose to which the data was put by him? Messier was a case in point. According to Mrs. Gaposchkin Messier was a comet-hunter. He found that many fuzzy lights in the sky bothered him in his search, so he made a list of 104 "disappointing objects" which should be disregarded by comet hunters. The disappointing objects included such things as the Andromeda galaxy, and many other galaxies still remembered by the numbers he gave to them. # If I remember correctly, French electric current is (or was during WWII) 30 cycle. Lights definately flickered. # Nice duplication Bill.

And now, the postmailings.

PHANTASY PRESS. "Tarzan and the Lost World" interesting. Did you lose something in the middle of the third page of this article? The transition from a paragraph speaking of the buildup



toward WWI and the even earlier capture of Aguinaldo and flight of Kruger to a paragraph beginning: "Perhaps the idea of gentlemanly war was absurd in the wake of the total war of the forties"--as I was saying, the transition was shocking. Something must surely have been left out--even if only a section break to show the separateness of the one paragraph from the preceding paragraphs. # There was some sparkle in your mailing reviews this time. Keep it up!

DOLOR. I ran across WOTINHELL or whatever in my files about the same time this postmailing was received. Five pages of cartoons by Bowart, editorial by Corey, front and back cover. Corey accuses himself of being editor and publisher. I think Bowart's proper place is fairly obvious, and your comments helped me in deciding just what place that was.

TENSION. Love those covers. # The obscenity yardstick was interesting and might even be useful.

FAKE FANTASY AMATEUR. Paul sounds like a very lazy bum indeed. Lee, you sounded awfully much like Lee; good.

DIMENSIONS 16. (Darn. Excuse the underlining, I forgot this wasn't FI). # I would never have guessed that Silverberg wasn't always one of the cat people. Both his writing (fannish) and Bob in person seemed to indicate a cat-oriented person. I approve of cats. The present cat on these premises is rather unsatisfactory. She's deaf, she sheds hair, and she gets into far too many fights. She's also a poor paper sitter. Oh, she likes to sit on paper all right, but she much prefers to sit on the paper that I'm reading from rather than the paper that I've finished with--probably, as you pointed out--because the stack of material to be read is always much thicker and therefore more comfortable than the stack that has been read and/or written on.

RUNE. I rather liked this, and if Norman's future submissions stay up to this level I'll not complain. It was legible, it was interesting, and some plain-talking was done. More power to you Norm.

THE SATELLITE IN THE SKY. Not that this has anything in particular to do with your fanzine Andy, but I saw Menzel on tv a few evenings ago, and he rather irritated me with his "I wish these amateurs would stay out of our sky" attitude. At least, that's the impression I got of his attitude. I was just wondering what kind of a bird he really was? Of course, I imagine that an astronomer is particularly likely to run into the lunatic fringe of people sighting strange new things in the sky and running to the college observatory with their discoveries. # Rotsler's illustrations fit the text beautifully. They were very suitable indeed. I like the attention you're giving to SPUTNIK in your FAPA writings, which comment applies also to SPUTNIK STORIES and also to Jean's comments in SUNDANCE. # Someday I'll have to get you started on the subject of whether scientists should be drafted and, if so, what use the military should make of them.

GARAGE FLOOR. This is the most attractive multi-color mimeo art I've ever seen, surpassing even White's finest efforts. I don't like the red serpentine in right center, but except for that it's truly excellent. # Andy's "A Hole is To?" had me wondering for a while just how much truth there was to his yarn. I guess I've read too much R. DeWitt Miller.

SUNDANCE. Not quite the usual sparkle, but still without question Jean Young. //THE WILL BE THAT WAS. Finally a folio, particularly Tree and Shadow, Blind Rafferty, Rayonets and Battlements and Das Windschiff. Excellent solid black mimeo work--too bad about the oil halo. # Finally a folio worth putting out was what I'd meant to say. Good!