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DAMNYANKEE is written and published by Arnie Katz, 98 Patton Blvd., New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11040 for the August 1967 mailing of SFPA. It is Katzac #99 and Meow Pub #76. It is still the fanzine that didn't figure to get past its first issue. It is also the fanzine of Katya and Suzy appreciation.

talk

There seems to have been quite a lot of comment on the quality of my writing in the last mailing. While on one hand, I don't particularly relish debating the subject, I can see what effect simply ignoring the criticism would have; SFPAns would either think I thought the criticism beneath my notice or else that I accept it as 100% valid. Since neither opinion is the correct one, I guess I've got to say something. Rather than fight a SFPazine to SFPazine action, I've decided that a general reply would be the best policy. Actually, such a general reply is the only way I can deal with the subject without sounding petulant, stupid, or defensive. I hope.

Despite the cover on my last SFPazine (completely out of character with the contents and, you will please remember, supplied by Lon and DaveH), I don't really believe that most SFPAns have no taste. I do think that the literary standards of a number of the members are not all they could be. I much doubt that I am alone (hi, Katya!) in thinking that anyone who reads most or all sf while reading little outside the genre does not have a very developed taste in literature. The same, of course, is true of anyone who reads almost exclusively in any of the branches of popular sub-literature -- mysteries, westerns, gothics, etc. This does not mean, however, that I can or intend to try to evade the criticism voiced last mailing by denegrating the critical faculties of the Voices of Dissatisfaction. Atkins, at least, has always impressed me as being a fairly discriminating reader. Hulan and Staton are, at the least, better than fan average as far as taste goes, and since I'd be pleased to accept their praise, I guess I'll have to bear with their scorn.

Interlaced with the negative opinions of my writing were, I noticed, several attempts to calm me down "in advance" from the towering rage I was supposed to fly into upon receipt of the SFPA mailing. I also received notes in advance of the mailing's arrival from Lon and DaveH to the same purpose. Far from being angry at the criticism, I agree to a certain extent, particularly with some of the things Lon said. I do think Hulan, Atkins, Bailes, et al spend entirely too much time talking about me out there in L.A. and, as a result, have created an emotional echo chamber. By this I mean that they have hashed over the subject so often and to such turgid length that they have reinforced their original opinions on my writing until these opinions have become, I believe, much too extreme.

Over the past year or so, there have been some pieces I'd just as soon not have written. Virtually all such material (the SFPA fiction mailing before last, the original article on good/bad writers, perhaps a couple of over-done DY editorials, and a few rough spots in

the mailing comments) has appeared in SFPA. The scattershot effect Lon mentioned is, indeed, the reason the bad editorials are bad and the rough spots in the mcs rough. The good lines suffer from being printed before and after not so successful lines. And I am as aware of this failing as anyone. The DamnYankee in the February mailing, the one which touched off this furore, was, in my opinion, less forced in the editorial and mailing comments than its immediate predecessors. Last mailing's issue, though marred by that outrageously poorly drawn cover, further developed the new more relaxed and more natural atmosphere in the new DY (more pages! higher word-rates!)

Another feature I plan to enaugarate in DY, one which will do much to curb the factors that result in bad material, is that from now on, I intend not to let myself be unduly influenced by the milieu. As I once said, in another apa, my approach to writing apa material usually is altered by the context in which it is to appear. I'm afraid that my SFPac has been somewhat Warped by the Image certain SFPAns have been working so hard to create for me. Especially during late '66, when I wasn't enthusiastic enough abbut fandom to exert a sufficent counter-force, I plead guilty to having taken the line of least resistance and acted within the limits of the character it seemed to give Hulan, Staton, and Atkins such joy to set up.

One of the consequences of the echo chamber effect which I mentioned previously, is that the critics now seem to approach everything I write with a strong negative prejudice. They seem to exaggerate the faults and minimize the virtues of everything I write. I really am sorry about that, I really am, but it's hardly something I can correct. I suppose using all that time spent discussing my writing on Better Things might help. Might I suggest, to those who have been so lavish with their friendly advice, that a little extra work on their own writing might be one of those Better Things? Snarl.

Oral Contraceptive ----- a letter substituteMercer(?)

"You'd better not get Ted White and the Void Boys mad at you," Shelby Vick said to me one day during my stay with the Vicks this past July.

"Why?" I asked, sure that I was about to get some bnfish sort of profound advice.

"Well they might decide to fight you." I urged him to continue. They might challenge the QUIP Kids to a shoot-out, with blasters."

"So?" I have confidence in my fellow QUIP editors, you know.

"Well, since they out-number you four to three," Shelby said, you might get shot and have a Void Rav-burn!"

PONGS ?

In the parenthetical remarks prefacing his Pong article in LOKI #10, Dave made a number of untrue and unfair statements about me and my position in regard to the Fan Achievement Awards. Both because I doubt that most SFPAns will take the trouble to see exactly what was said in QUIP #6 and because I'd like at least SFPA to know where I personally stand on the matter, I decided to do this short article outlining my views on the awards.

Ever since the democratically elected Fan Awards Committee failed to carry on after the fairly successful poll taken by Dick Eney, discussion of fan polls has been current in New York fanzine fandom. The Focal Point Poll was an unsuccessful attempt to set up a new Fan Poll which failed due to the extreme irregularity of the parent fanzine.

If "private" fans couldn't maintain a polling apparatus, I suppose the thinking went, the alternative was to incorporate a Fan Poll into the continuing worldcon structure. Granting that a Fan Poll is desirable (and I believe it is), connection with the worldcon seems the most fool-proof method for getting a well-run poll every year.

Ted brought up the Fan Awards idea during the trip eight of us took to the Midwestcon and Westercon last summer, and since Ted and I usually rode in the same car, we talked about it intermittantly. As a non-committee member, I acted as a mediator in ironing out the structure of the awards. For instance, I helped convince Ted that less blase fans than ourselves would not be happy with trophies of farcical appearance. I also helped convince another committee member that it would be wrong to give fan editors one sort of award and writers and artists, whose fanzine fanac is every bit as important, another. I think the Fan Achievement Awards are, in form, pretty sensible, and very little objection to them has been raised in that respect.

The nickname "Pong", to me, is just fine. It is short, distinctive, honors a great fannish character, and yet is not named after an actual living person. And a name like "Pong" would show that fandom isn't taking itself too seriously. Unfortunately, the nickname falls into the same catagory as making the awards look farcical, super-serious types won't go for it. While I might not have used the nickname "Pong" if I'd been in charge if only to avoid bitching from fandom's super-serious faction, I don't think the NYCon

con committee, in choosing this nickname, was guilty of anything more serious than a bit of over-optimism as far as the level of maturity in fandom is concerned. Of course, now that the NYCon has knuckled under to pressure and removed the nickname, it is beginning to gain currency in fandom, simply because it is so catchy (and because fans are perverse...).

The committee's mistake was in the manner in which the awards were presented to fandom. I can, to an extent, understand why the plan was not presented for a vote at the Tricon business session. For one thing, until the resolution making the WSFS Uninc. rules morally binding on con committees beginning in 1968, there was really no set of standing rules. In the absense of such rules, the committee -- perhaps wrongly, perhaps not -- assumed that the initiative for changing the awards structure therefor lay with the individual con committees. For another, convention business meetings have a habit of side-tracking things into inactive committees and otherwise performing indecisively. Now that the WSFS Unic. rules have been widely acknowledged as binding on committees, I think this situation will change, but that it has existed in the past would be very difficult to deny.

This failure to present the Fan Achievement Awards idea for ratification at the Tricon didn't have to be a major one. In fact, if the committee had followed my oft-repeated suggestion, I doubt that any reasonable person would have objected to the lack of a vote on the matter at the Tricon business session. My idea was simplicity itself (what else could it be, considering the source...). All the committee had to do was include, on the Awards Nominations Ballot, a space for voting yes or no on the question of the Fan Achievement Awards. A note stating that, if the Fan Achievement Awards failed to get majority support, fanzines nominated for "Best Fanzine" would appear on the final ballot as nominees for the Best Amateur Magazine Hugo could have been included on the ballot. What could be simpler to do and at the same time more fair? Such a procedure would even have had an advantage over an at-the-con vote; voters would have had a couple of months rather than a couple of minutes to think over the pros and cons of the Fan Achievement Awards. I'm still not sure why the committee didn't follow my suggestion, but I guess I'm engaging in hindsight here.

And I think hindsight is something the critics of the committee have overused already. As soon as John Trimble pointed out that the WSFS Uninc rules would be binding on the 1968 convention committee (this in the much delayed QUIP #6), the NYCon scheduled a business meeting so that changes in the WSFS rules could be discussed and voted upon, including the Fan Achievement Awards. This demonstrates to me and should demonstrate to anyone willing to be reasonable about the situation, that the NYCon committee has recognised its mistake and is doing the best it possibly can to correct the situation. The vote on the Pongs at the NYCon should, hopefully, satisfy all but the lunatic fringe.

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comments

The Southerner #24 - LAOE

Some year, I am sure, I will get to vote in a SFPA Egoboo Poll. I am still comparitively a young man, and I know that time is on my side. I really believe that I will someday get to fill out a poll ballot for SFPA. I believe with a pure chrystaline belief such as is usually associated with the more ascetic of the mystery religions. This time the reason for my non-participation is that Lon has threatened to publish all the ballots. My feeling is that my vote is no one's business other than mine and the person who has to tabulate the ballots. If I want to make my own ballot public, I have a blank stencil availible and can do so. If I don't want my vote revealed my only choice, at least in this case, is to simply not fill out a ballot. You see, I think that revealing one's vote makes that vote partake of synchophantic back-patting more than a group expression of thanks for apac well done. Perhaps next year I'll get to vote.....

Lore #8 - Jerry Page

I find this fairly interesting, but virtually the most difficult zine upon which to comment I have ever received in an apa. Very nicely produced, by the way.

SFPAGE #4 - Jerry Page

I think Lon may have ragged you a little unfairly in the O-O about wasting space. The big space on page one looks as if it was originally supposed to have a nice fillo in it and then something happened. I'll have to admit that I don't think too much of all those asterisks, but my objection is more on the lack of visual appeal rather than any space you might be wasting.

Funny that you should have found DY #13 so hard to read. No one else seemed to have that much trouble reading it. I notice you didn't seem to have much trouble with the near-illegible and near-illiterate TNNN #1

By the way, is Anne Lovett the beautiful blonde you introduced me to as "a lecher, be careful of him"?

Jalap #1 - Bill Pettit

My feeling about the waiting list is that it wouldn't be so bad if some of the wlers did lose interest before they advanced to membership. To me, the perfect wl is one that weeds out the chaff without being so long as to discourage good fans from applying to it.

I've met Sam Delany a number of times, perhaps I can do you a whole book, if you think meeting him once is meat for an article. Seriously, he comes to about every other Fanoclast meeting. As far as his writing goes, I believe I remember him saying that "The Einstein Intersection" represents an experiment. He said he'd consciously put aside all the conventional rules of story-telling before writing it.

A side of Chip Delany not commonly known is Delany in his aspect as Truefan Sam Delany. A couple of weeks after the last LTHS was mailed out both Chip and Terry Carr were at a Fanoclast meeting.

"Do you want that piece for LIGHTHOUSE, Terry?" Sam said matter-of-factly.

"Oh, I dunno," Terry replied. Terry is no longer used to being a publishing giant, you know.

"Well, I can have it for you Monday if you'd like to publish this week," Sam suggested. I thought Terry was going to faint on the spot.

Chip is really quite a fine fellow and if Lths doesn't go a year between issues this time, now you'll know why.

Los Angeles Trip Report - Billy Pettit

Coors may be your SFPA's Official Necessity, but I vote for Pretty Girls. In fact, I always vote for Pretty Girls. Sometimes, this gets me into trouble, as when at the Tricon everyone else was voting for NYCon 3.

Florimel #5 - Joe Staton

The cartoon on the bacover had me rolling on the floor, helpless with smiles. That has got to be the funniest thing I've seen in fandom since someone asked Frank Dietz where his sister Belle was... Do you think you could restencil it for QUIP? It really does deserve wider publication, you know.

Interesting coincidence that you would bring up Larry Ivie as the artistic equivalent of someone like ERB. I was mulling over the same comparison myself.

The film I had in mind was, I realized almost as soon as I mailed off the zine to Lon, was indeed "Queen of Outer Space". I'd forgotten about those swipes from "World Without End", though. In any case, definitely a classic of the screen.

As long as Lon doesn't attempt to count my page credit at the rate you suggest (50 Katz pages equalling 1 Bailes phrase), I guess you're entitled to your opinion.

The New Port News #1 - Ned Brooks

The material in the REALIST to which you make reference was a REALIST type humor piece in the grand tradition of that magazine. It was so obviously not in Manchester's putrid style and so obviously was in the orthodox REALIST style that I can't see how you could've missed the fact that it was a put-on. Besides, the excerpts (so-called) were about the tallest tales imaginable, tying up all of our culture's popular fantasies and enigmas in one gaudy package. I thought the description of Johnson having intercourse with the hole in the dead president's throat had a macabre charm (though "charm" is definitely not the precise word...). I think the point, over and above the ridiculing of our cultural myths, Krasner was trying to make is that the whole fracas was blown up into such a big thing only because the public was dying to hear "dirt" about the participants. Well, Krasner's "excerpts" have more than enough sordid stories to satisfy even the most devoted viewers of "Peyton Place".

DamnYankee #14 - Arnie Katz

At the present time, I have met Atkins, Bailes, Cox, Hickman, Hulans, Jacobs, Katz, Luttrell, Norwood, Page, Pelz, Pettit, and Wells from the membership. I have met Plott among the invitees. On the wl, I have met Shaw, Lerner, Porter, Stevens, Bounds, Van Arnam, and Scott. That's 76.4% of the membership, 33 1/3% of the invitees, and 53.8% of the wl. Knowing all that and paying 20¢ will get you on the BMT -- tell them I sent you.

Such and Such #12 - Hank Luttrell

It certainly was nice seeing you again at this year's Midwestcon, Hank. This time, unlike the previous time I met you, we even got to talk a bit. Hope to see you for the third time at the NYCon 3.

Buffalo does fairly well as a cultural center. The Fugs, to name one classical ensemble, two concerts at U.B. this past spring, for which the Union Board of the University of Buffalo footed the bill. Thus we were all allowed to absorb Culture free of charge. The group has definitely become more polished since their second album. I was, however, somewhat embarrassed by one part of the concert.. When they turned on a strobe light, some of the local rubes thought it was a power failure and panicked.

I enjoyed "Memphis Blues Again" very much, but since I didn't have anything much to say about it, I simply didn't mention it. I agree about "Silent Night/Seven O'clock Newscast". It definitely pales, mostly because the song depends on shock value more than any intrinsic excellence in music or lyric. This was the reason I didn't describe it in the review, only called people's attention to it.

Your comment to Brooks reminds me that he hasn't met me either, so far as I know. I'd be willing to bet that there are others (Cox maybe) whom he hasn't met, either.

Starling #9 - Hank

I and, I think, the vast majority of fanzine fans, would tend to agree in a general way with your opinions on censorship. I believe you err, however, in your willingness to accept the fait accompli of censorship. Certainly, groups like the NODL have in the past, are in the present, and will in the future try to exercise control over what the rest of us adults read, hear, and see, but it would be wrong to disregard the rights of the people who do not want censorship (even if they do constitute a minority as you suggest and I doubt) by giving even tacit acceptance to pro-censorship legisla-

tion. I think it is far more important to find the best means of neutralizing extra-legal censoring groups (NODL, the Post Office, etc.) than to try and discover the least odious means of censorship. A decade ago, I might have agreed with you, so bad, comparatively speaking, was the situation. Today, however, we seem to be on the verge of making the apparatus of censorship ineffectual. For an example of what I'm talking about, turn on your radio. Things are being talked about today on AM high kw stations that not even WBAI and its sister stations would have touched five years ago. The word "pregnant" was Never Used on AM radio in New York, five years ago. Announcers used to even steer clear of phrases like "pregnant with feeling". Last night, Long John Nebel did 5 hours on contraception; not contraception "if", but contraception "how best". Earlier this week, he did 5 hours on abortion. To cite an example in literature, are you aware that the first american reprints of Olympia Press books have come onto the market in the last year? With censorship, then, on the run in most areas, I don't think die-hard censors ought to be given any new rationalizations for continued censorship. God knows, they've been rationalizing their infringement upon the rights of the rest of us Just Fine on their own hook.

I, too, was disappointed by the Ginzburg Case. I have heard that the decision would have gone the other way had Justice Fortas not compromised his lifelong principles and voted to convict Ginzburg. I'm afraid sustaining the conviction on the basis that the advertising was salacious doesn't quite cut the mustard, especially since the prosecution never alleged that the ads were anything worse than bad taste. It will be interesting to see if the new principle can actually be applied by the court to settle censorship cases, or if, as I half-suspect, it is merely a stopping point to enable the court to get up the guts to overturn all censorship legislation except that which regulates minors.

Cliffhangers and Others #12 -Rick Norwood

I can't see voting for "The Menagerie" based on the revised T.V. version, which contained a logical flaw which ruined the show for me. The injured captain, we were told, had no sensory nerves but, as his brain was unpaired, he could communicate via the little light connected directly to his brain. Fine, I say, ignoring for a moment that his auditory and optic nerves seemed to function perfectly, but why didn't someone teach the good captain morse code? Because it would spoil the stupid plot if the captain could communicate with people and tell them what Spock was up to when that worthy was re-routing the USS Enterprise. If that is good sf (or good anything) I guess I don't like it. Oh, and the acting talent of the original cast of Star Trek with the possible exception of Jeff Hunter was either non-existent or else critically impaired by the cardboard characters they were supposed to animate. Braaak.

MEL #9 - Lon Atkins

You're right about hoaxes in fandom. I know that, speaking personally, I tend to believe things are true until they have been shown to be untrue. I may reserve action, but, being a basically open person myself, the idea of someone going to a lot of trouble to lie to me doesn't always occur.

I actually have no intention of immediately continuing "The Story of A". It will be a sometimes thing, mostly getting things written before they blurr in my memory too much. Besides, once I get to the point where I become an actifan, I have grave worries over how much it is wise to reveal about myself and my opinions of people and events.

I find myself more prone to write down-beat faan fiction than humorous (or even "happy") faan fiction. It isn't that I have a perpetual mad against fandom, just that those things which are wrong with fandom and the world in which it exists are more suitable for dramatization. Perhaps the same is true for you.

While I have enjoyed the Ted White novels I have read to a greater or lesser extent, it is just possible that Lee Hoffman may be far and away the best writer of fiction in the Fanoclasts. I await her Belmont SF novel with much anticipation.

I don't know why there is no comparable Len Bailes legend, exactly. Many times I have thought of starting one by doing Len's biography but somehow I always shrink from the task. Perhaps it is because I spend a lot less time playing Galactic Observer (as opposed to Doing Things) than my old friend Len Bailes. Then, too, it must be admitted that I have a number of talent friends who bring my life before the eyes of the fanworld in brilliant, finely crafted prose. And then there are ~~less talented~~ fans who sit around all night talking about me in Los Angeles...

UTGARD #13 - Dave Hulan

While I agree with you that time supplies a perspective helpful in weeding out lesser works, I don't think it's a perfect criterion by which to judge literature.

Good literature has a way of disappearing when its costodians are careless and/or unappreciative. During the Middle Ages, much great ancient literature, now only known to us by reputation, passed into limbo. Aristotle's essay, "The Poetics", for example, is incomplete, and complete trilogies in greek tragedy are well nigh non-existent.

Bad literature, on the other hand, has a habit of sticking around if it once gets on the List as a classic. Of classics with which I have first-hand acquaintance, Pamela springs to mind as a Horrible Example. While the book has its good points, it is also

over-dramatic and incredibly sacchrine. Udolpho by Radcliffe is still read along with similar gothic novels, and that is reputed to be a dozen notches below Pamela.

Time does have a definite effect on books whose themes are too narrow to have universal application. Books with general, though extremely shallow, themes are not much affected by time. There is always a sizable number of shallow people ready to read equally shallow novels. Look at the longevity of ERB...

LOKI #10 - Dave Hulan

Apart from noting that your ridiculous display in this fanzine, brought on by having a really wretched article (not the one printed in this issue, except perhaps as much as 50%) rejected, was childish (and in places libelous), I won't dignify it with a rebuttal.

PATCHWORK #1 - Katya-babe

Well yes, I actually do mind if the letter you were supposed to write me is public. A mailing comment is not a letter. Why can't you be a good girl like DY's other Inspirational Figure, Suzy Vick, who is as busy as you but still sends two or three pages every week or so?

I think you put yourself down unnecessarily with that line "Dian gets more gorgeous, but I get more daring." There's a cliché, I think, about women getting More Daring as they get Older. Actually, you are not getting more gorgeous, but this is only because there is so little room for improvement.

"Catch The Wind" has always been my favorite, more or less, of all Donovan's songs, even if it outrageously imitative of Dylan. The funny thing is that, upon hearing it for the first time, my initial reaction was that this would be a song you would like. I'm not sure why this thought occurred to me, but it did.

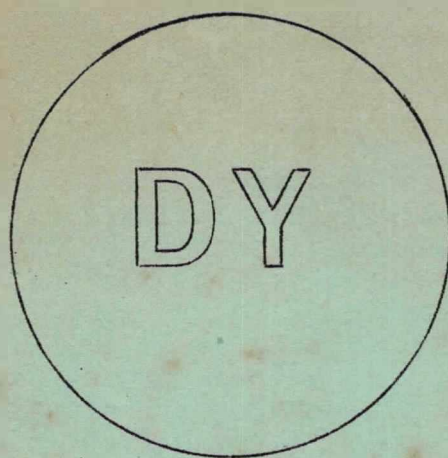
I think Joe and the rest are just ragging me about Dylan being a coward or a nay-sayer, but I think you simply haven't heard enough of his recordings to really know much first-hand about what he is saying. Otherwise, I'm sure you would not be so quick to disenfranchise a fellow member of God Fandom and the only writer of good religious poetry extant. I may do that article on Dylan this or next mailing so I'll pipe down. Please listen to "Hard Rain's Gonna Fall" -- on the Baez album if you have trouble getting the words from Dylan, and then come back and tell me that Dylan is merely complaining and has No Faith.

I'll have to check on that "more daring" business when I next see you....yes.

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Having nothing much to say about the rest of the mailing, I think I'll cut it right here. See you next mailing -- Arnie



"On To Richmond!"