



NEMESIS

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So who said

I could draw?

- AK

NEMESIS #1 is published and edited by Arnold Katz of 98 Patton Blvd. New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11048. It is prepared for the 11th SFFA mailing. It is being run off on my mimeo, the Tower of Power. Stencilling by Len Bailes. It is Meow Publication #4 and Katzac #124

"Take the mail in." my mother moaned from her bedroom where she lay suffering from a running nose. My heart leapt at the news as I thought that I'd received no mail today. I leapt after it, and I reached the door just behind it. I flung open the door, and there it was. An envelope, obviously for me, since I'm the only one around here who gets those large manila things.

"N'APA's come at last!" I said to myself. I picked it up so that I could see it better. "S-a-ay," I said, "That's not Fred's handwriting, maybe it's Enclave or Yandro. I opened the envelope. It was SFFA. I sat down and read it. I read it again. I went to the bathroom. I came back and read it once more. SFFA and N'APA had never prepared me for this. The 10th mailing was simply incredible, all 82 pages of it. I kid you not. Never have I seen an apa mailing of this quality.

And to that, kiddies, I say Thank God. Never in my long career as an apa (3 mailings of SFFA and 3 of N'APA) have I seen anything which approaches SFFA 10 for crud. WOW? That's all I can say for now, but rest assured I'll think of something later.

I guess I should introduce myself. My name is Arnold Katz, my friends call me Arnie. I have no enemies, but I could collect some here if SFFA 11 is out of the same mold as this mailing. I'm 17, a senior in high school, and a greybeard of 1 year of fanactivity. I have quite a number of hobbies and interests, you'll find out soon enough if you strike one.

I was born in a southern town, you know. Yes, it is the veritable truth. I was born in Brooklyn, NY. and you can't hardly get more southern (There was a great line meant for this space, but since I am entirely out of sympathy with its sentiments I have omitted it. If any SFFA is really interested, I'll send him the line if he will send me two five cent stamps. Address your inquiries to Racist Propaganda, c/o Time Magazine. They will of course forward it to me. Surree they will.)

WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS WITHIN THE HEART OF FEN

The Southerner

Bill, why don't you just put how many pages the member needs for the next mailing next to his name on the roster? Seems to me that it would save space.

Gee guys, 82 pages isn't very much. Like it may be an all-time record (Unless SFFA has done worse?!) Seriously, I expect the PM's to bring the total up to an only slightly less shameful 110 or so. At least the rumors I've heard seem to indicate quite a few zines will be P.M.ed.

Excellent idea about moving the SFFA mailing from Dec. 15 to the 31. N'APA had the same kind of problem this year with the Christmas rush, so Patten just officially extended the deadline to 12/20/63, and it worked out fairly well. I should think that moving the deadline to the 31st would be even better.

So SFPA is going to need a new OE come June or so, eh? Well, even if he does seem to have some kind of ridiculous grudge against me, I rather think Jim Harkness even if he is so young, would make a fairly good OE. Interested, Jim?

StF#3 Jim Harkness

Well, Jim boy, I am here. Confess, did you ever expect to see me, of all people, here? You bet your life you didn't! Not after our rather idiotic discussion on the relative merits of SFPA and N'APA. As I said, it was a rather idiotic discussion, since you hadn't (and still haven't) seen many N'APAZines and I hadn't seen many SFPAZines. Now, I'm afraid the argument would be a little unfair, since I have more info than you. I'll tell you what, James, come back in a couple of years and maybe we can go a couple of rounds with SAPS and FAPA.

Damn! this mc is too SAPSish. I guess I'll talk about StF. The contents were sub par except for the Wilson Beggs vignette, which was interesting and superior fanzine fiction. The reprc and art were both about 100% better, but I think layout took another kick in the teeth this time when you started a story in mid-page. Naturally, I won't even mention that Len and I did the same thing to your column in Excalibur. You've rested on your laurels a bit too much considering that you've precious little to rest on in the way of accomplishments. That's a bad sign. StF#3 was at best a little worse than #2. Less bragging and more action, please.

Sporadic Bill Plott

I'm sorry you don't like my writing. I'm AK Davids, but I feel I must return the compliment. Your zine bored me silly, if you really want to know. You reported the Discon as if you'd gone to a wake, or a bookstore. There was no life in your Conrep. I was at the Discon, I met you and tried to give you my dollar, and it was quite a lively worldcon.

The biggest fault with your report is that one does not get the feeling that you actually associated with people. Sure you threw in some names, but where are the anecdotes, the things that bring a report to life?

"John Campbell" is too singable. Maybe you ought to brush up on the tune of "Tom Dooley" Say, you don't like anything I do, do you?

Your mc's are about the best in SFPA 10, but where you found so much to talk about is beyond me. SFPA is murder for mc ers I think, because it's so small. With seven zines in SFPA 10, not counting as yet unrarried PM's one would have to devote a lot of space to each zine in order that he meet his activity requirements with just mailing comments. Unfortunately, too many of the zines in SFPA10 are completely uncommendable on, which makes it even tougher. Maybe I'll dig out an Excalibur reject story to fill out the issue, or maybe if I'm feeling good, I might run a couple of filk songs. We shall see what we shall see.

TO SAVE A MEMBERSHIP Hulan

Well, Dave, not only am I a SFPA-N'APAn, but so are McDaniel and Proctor. so you're far from unique in that respect. As for being the only tri-apan, that's true enough now, but if you pick up the Spectator for SAPS 65, you'll find me #6 on the wl. Lord

knows where I am as of January mailing. Kent McDaniel isn't too far
and me either. I also might point out that I'm #9 on the Cult
IWL so I'll be the only four apa SFTA, so there. I'm on the FAPA
wl and will be on the OMPA wl Real Soon Now too. Then I will be
in more apas than you, which means less than nothing, in my opinion.
It's not how many apas you're in that counts, it's what you put into
them. Unfortunately, your contributions have been limited by you're
having gone fafia. I hope you'll be more active in all the apas you're
in.

Scimitar #1 George

See, here is someone who likes AK Davids stories. At least, I
think he does. On your mc on StF #2 you say, "The next story was
pointless" Do you mean Dr. Keller's story or mine, which follows
Keller's. That's one thing I might suggest, George, don't write
oblique mailing comments. MC's, good ones, should stand by themselves.
They should be interesting without having to constantly refer to the
past mailings.

Warlock #2 Montgomery

A story like Terry Ange's shows what happens when someone who
hasn't been exposed, obviously, to too much SF tries to write in the
genre. It took all the way to the fifth paragraph for me to guess
the rest of the story, including the "surprise ending" I'm afraid
you get a slap on the hands for using this. I know it's hard to turn
down a g*i*r*1, but you should've.

Your Philcon report was interesting. I will put down the gosh-
wowness to your being a neo. It's funny, all the fen whom I know
said the Philcon was terrible. Ah well, to each his own.

Outre #2- McDaniel

Well, you spelled the title right Mr. Kent. Thank Ghod for
this zine with all its comment hooks, or I'd never fill up a whole
issue.

First, the cover, Like, beat George over the head for a good
cover, not a good fillo. He certainly can do great work when he
wants to; that's for sure.

Re your Spectre mc: If he had "Weird fantasy fiction, weird
fantasy cover, weird fantasy inside and bacover and weird fantasy
illos" then SFTA mcs wouldn't have been a contrast at all. SFTA
mc's strike me as being fantasy, by and large, too. They also show
some pretty weird taste.

I'll give you one thing, Kent, at least you enjoy my fiction.
The story in StF #2 was the first one I ever wrote. I did it about
3 years ago. I'll be interested in getting your reaction to my
Very First Sword and Sorcery story in Excalibur #6, which I will
now plug.

Excalibur is the genzine I put out with Len Bailes. The first
Annish is available as you read this. It has about 50 pages of, I
think, good material. 25¢ a copy, 5/\$1. Kent, I think the peculiar
atmosphere in this apa is getting to you. N'APA does not have a neo-
ish air. There were some first ishes in N'APA 18, but there are far
more BNFs and experienced fen in N'APA than SFTA is likely to have.
If N'APA is neoish than SFTA must be too, because more than half of
SFTA is in N'APA. You are right about one thing, the article about
SFTA and N'APA merging is laughable. Why an apa with a full roster
of forty and a waitlist, capable of putting out high quality mail-

ings such as Dec. N'APA 19 would want to merge with SFFA is beyond my comprehension. Niekas #7 alone was better than the entire 10th SFFA mailing.

Cyr #2 is not in SFFA 10, but in it, Paul indicates a desire to join N'APA. Nice try, Kent, you've been brainwashed. In SFFA 10 the seven zines averaged 11.7pp. In N'APA 19(Dec.) 21zines averaged 10.8pp. In SFFA 9, 12 zines, counting pm's averaged 14.2pp apiece while 30, N'APA zines in N'APA 18 averaged a little over 12, but that included two o-o's. Leaving out the second o-o, 29 zines appeared for an average of about 12.8. With about 2 pages difference in the Sept. Mailings, and 1 in the December mailings, how can you say that N'APA is composed of a lot of small zines, while SFFA has a few big zines? A fairer statement might be that SFFA has a few zines and N'APA has many of approx the same size. Lest you say "N'APA has one or two big zines which average out with all the little ones, I would like to point out that the median average for the Dec. mlg's was exactly the same.

Kent are you crazy!? Whad'ya mean telling Gary Labowitz to alternate Canticles between the two apas? First of all, Gary'd have to be an idiot to pub something like CFL for 14 SFFAs. And second of all, you are heretical in telling a big ziner to cut his apactivity in half. You heard Gary, I think, since he Missed a Mailing. Shaddup your mouth!

Cliffhangers- Norwood

Dammit, no comments

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RNEE AND THE ROSECOLORED GLASSES OF SEFF PA

by Arnold Katz

Chapter One

From the land of the rising star, Dnieppa, rode the tall rider. The hooves of his horse kicked up puffs of dirt as he sped over the flatlands of Seff Pa. The sandy plain was unbroken except for the scraggly trees on which grew the bitter soffis fruit. He leaned close to Bdydcomz's ear and reassured the hard breathing white stallion that they had not long to travel to their destination of Seff Pa city. Rnee had heard much of the magnificence of the city, and against his better judgement, he urged Bdydcomz to still greater speed.

As he rode along, he noticed that the trees were beginning to appear more frequently. That, he knew, meant that the city must be near. Rnee galloped along on Bdydcomz for another half an hour, until he sighted Seff Pa city off in the distance surrounded by a large grove of soffis trees. After traversing the winding dirt road to the city, Rnee reined his horse at the gate, which seemed to be shut. There didn't seem to be any gateman, so Rnee cupped his hands about his mouth and shouted, "Is anybody there?" No one answered, but his shout was strong enough to blow over the gate. Rnee laughed lustily at the thought of a city whose walls could be blown over. "I hope that the buildings are more strongly built," he said as he rode through the gates.

Rnee could not believe his eyes. Here, surely was not the great city he had been told about. It was at most a small village, and Rnee

noticed that fully half the small town had sunk into disused slums. The rest of the village was composed of a series of buildings that seemed to some extent to live up to Seff Pa City's reputation. On closer inspection, however, he saw that the buildings were only false fronts which concealed hovels that made Rnee wince just to look at them.

Rnee walked down the main street leading Bdykoma behind him and jumping over the puddles of water which collected in the many ruts that crossed the road. He led the horse to a hitching post and looped the reins around it twice. Rnee was both hot and tired, so he looked up and down the line of stores until he spotted the tavern. Slowly, he stepped through the door and stepped up to the counter.

"Hello," he said, "My name is Rnee the Dnieppan, and I have come to see your land and city of Seff Pa. I would like to get something to eat and drink as I have ridden long and hard from my home in Dnieppa.

"Dnieppa! Did you hear that Jhimme?" bellowed Kentropolis the bar keep. He slapped the thin blond headed man on the back. Then, taking Rnee's silence as a sign of passivity, the bar keep continued, "Yes, indeed, I have heard of Dnieppa, where everyone lives in a hut and suffers from the twin scourges of minac and neosis." Kentropolis waved his arms in an expansive gesture, "How different is our land of SeffPa of which our city of Seff Pa is the fairest bloom."

"The only thing that seems to be blooming here is the people," said Rnee. The blond and the bar keep exchanged glances.

"Do you mean to say that you, even though you are a lowly Dnieppan can perceive that here in Seff Pa City we have the flower of human genius? Why, perhaps I have judged you too harshly. If you have sufficient intellect to recognize the greatness of the citizens of Seff Pa." He paused and reflected on the glory of the speech he had just finished. Both the blond man called Jhimme and another warrior applauded.

"Surely," said Rnee, "Seff Pa City must be, if I am to judge by the present company, the center of a great flowering of mankind. I must admit, I have never seen such an incidence of blooming idiots in all my life!" The two warriors reached for their swords.

"Get him, boys!" said Kentropolis.

(to be continued)