

This is being first-drafted directly onto master, as is my wont. I was talking to Arnie Katz (America's Number One Neo) several days ago. "What shall I talk about in BE, Arnie?" I asked our astute Neo. "Well, Andy Bhabby, you could write about me." And so I am. Arnie was horrified to learn that the sagority of my fanish writings were done directly on master; he claimed it was sacrilege, or something. To this I replied nonsense; some of my best stuff has been done directly on master. I didn't add that some of my deadeast flops have been done directly on master as well (like just now when I typed too far into the forbidden area beyond which I mess up the layout). However, I felt that I didn't want to trouble Arnie's fine fanish mind. I also asked Arnie what else I could talk about besides Arnie Katz. "Well, you could talk about the Hugos." "But I don't know anything about the Hugos, and even less about who I'm going to nominate for the awards." That was all right with Arnie; he suggested QUIF for best fanzine. I countered with Algol, and Arnie quiveringly withdrew Quip if I promised to withdraw Algol. I promised, only Maybe Not, as we say in Fine Fanish fandom. Arnie is a wonderful chap; since I've come to know him I've learned all sorts of fine fanish sneaky Pete ways to do things. After all, TAPS is better than the Cult, whatever that means.

The trouble with talking about the Hugos is that there are undoubtedly several dozen others also taking up this annual favorite among topics. That's all right tho, I suppose, because I've never done it before.

I was sort of involved on the sidelines with Dick Lupoff and the Hugo Study Commission, or whatever they called it; through apa F Dick got a lot of feedback and ideas and like that on the shape that the awards would take. And so we come to have the current system, which will receive its first test this year. I for one support the Australian ballot, because among other things it eliminates the possibility of 34% of the total vote capturing a hugo, as seemed the possibility when Savage Lellucidar by Edgar Allan Burroughs was nominated for the hugo. Actually, the first decisive test of the system will occur this Spring, when the TAPS votes will be counted. Tapp is also using the Australian system this year, and the procedure of counting the votes will provide an early indication of exactly how effective the new system is. I certainly hope that it will

