

# an EGOBOO a DAY #3

## SUMMER '62 (oh, well) *from* ALL OVER

GEORGE SCITHERS    What a lovely idea -- now you can exorcize all who disagree with your ineffable wisdom by banishing them to "Exeunt" in FANAC, without regard to whether they are in fact gafiating or not. I seriously think the M's will have grounds for suit -- your listing of them there is a lie, designed to injure them by cutting them off from their friends and acquaintances in fandom -- and if that isn't a description of an actionable offense, I'll reread my law books. ## Your criticism of the NFFF Fandbook #1 is no reflection on the fandbook, it just shows your own egregious and overweening Breenishness in its most flagrant form.

+ The reference to the Namelesses in "Exeunt" was merely confirming the reports of their removal from mailing lists as suggested in AXE. If and when the difficulty is patched up, outside the courtroom most likely, they might find their way back onto mailing lists. When I hear of such a reconciliation, I'll print it in FANAC too. In the meantime, there is nothing to prevent their friends from continuing to keep in touch with them. +

JOHN BAXTER    The mailing delay is lengthening of late--about eight weeks for the last couple of issues--but I guess this is something you just have to accept. What sort of deal would you give me on an airmail sub? [To Australia it would be unpredictable and expensive. I'll give details later. wb] Carr used to give a scale of airmail charges at one time but apparently there is no longer sufficient demand for a service like this. [Terry predicated it on 4-pp issues. I can't get the size standardized. Maybe sometime. wb] Would appreciate a quote though--2-month-old news is hardly worth buying, and but for the fact that you carry interesting offbeat items found nowhere else I wouldn't bother with a sub. That's a sort of backhanded tribute to your editing ability--where else would you find people buying a newsmagazine but not caring about the news? Fandom has a corner on all sorts of peculiar anomalies like this.

Your rundown on the White/Moskowitz thing was very nicely done indeed, though the biblical-quote line really made me jump. Not used to that kind of strong meat in a fmz. [Is TW's "Eppur si muove" any stronger than the "...cast the first stone" I quoted? wb] ... It's surprising that more of this sort of thing doesn't happen. Fandom skates along happily, ignoring all the fears and foibles of mundane, and when it happens to collide with somebody there is a great outcry about "fannish ethics" and all that? Is there any such thing as "fannish ethics"? I doubt it. In the past, fans have shown themselves as startlingly human types when placed under stress. They are just as vicious as the man-in-the-street when crossed--perhaps more so because fandom encourages a no-holds-barred style of fighting not generally favoured in the outside world. This makes for a very interesting hobby, and I for one wouldn't like to see it changed for anything. However, fans should perhaps be a little more careful in future and stop relying on an innate sense of justice in their opponents. Most of the time it just isn't there.

I hope you stick with your current policy on FANAC. It's a more interesting mag now than it ever was under Terry--it has a certain colour now, a kind of verve that you seldom see in a fan publication. If only I could get the damned thing a bit earlier.

+ I want to think some more about this 'fannish ethics' question. I feel that an unwritten code has developed (even though not always adhered to). # Thanks for your other comments. I'm still experimenting; I hope you won't be disappointed. +

SID COLEMAN    :    On filming the Bible: Do you realize that those portions which are dullest to read would be the most interesting on the screen? # I will be travelling this summer; fmz should still be sent to Lyman Lab (they will either be forwarded or held for me), but visitors will find me not at home.

+ I suppose you mean the Adam begat Seth, and Seth begat ~~the~~ etc. bits. Y'know, I think even they would be monotonous after awhile. Variety is the spice of porno or something. +



JINX McCOMBS I have discovered an interesting thing about fan; they are surprisingly willing to send their fmz to me without being asked. It's nice that way, because I somehow never have sense enough to ask. Or maybe it's just that I'm too far behind in writing locs; I never have time to ask for more zines. Still yet, they are greatly appreciated when they come, and are commented upon as rapidly as possible. Or possibly it's because people have heard of MIMSY; that is the reason I sent you a sample copy of my zine. Then too, there's always Lichtman's reason, which is that a pretty young femmefan always deserves a sample; wb]

Thanks for clearing up the refs to Peghoot in the SF Chronicle. I buy the paper whenever possible, and had noticed these ads in a couple of issues, and wondered about them. Another inroad of the Motivational Research people, I suppose; wait till Ted Pauls heard about this!

+ He surely has by now. He gets FANAC too. But I haven't gotten the last two KIPPLES. Ted? +

ARCHIE MERCER 'You're fighting for your wives, kids, friends.' So are some millions of other guys. Said wives, kids, friends might be safer and (in the long or short run) possibly happier even, if you and the others weren't. What the enemy might do to them if he took over is not necessarily worse than what he, with your connivance, may do to them simply by trying to take over.

+ I don't think there's any easy answer. Of course, it depends on who is trying to take over. Many would point to Hungary and say that a communist takeover would be worse than a war, as life would no longer be worth living under such a regime. My view so far is that the risk of total destruction of the human species is too grave to risk war. I'm still in flux and my ideas are still evolving. I would welcome discussion on this point if it does not simply degenerate into slogan-shouting and personalities. +

ANDY MAIN BEM ETC. Mainly just finished reading 2 page scene on F85 about the "CotBotW". Yech. I must say I am sorely disgusted by the whole thing, and much disappointed in all you people out there to have gone in for such a thing. I dig the pledge--you may remember I was one of the first to take it--but all this yaketyyak and High Sounding Toofaraw is even worse than the stuff we've been hearing out of LA with their Coventry and Water Brothers and other such crappe. Such silly games are to be taken seriously by children--but I certainly wouldn't expect thinking adults (I assume) to take it all seriously. It might be a fun kick and all, and is all right if left to that, but it disturbs me to see all you out there making noises as if you were serious about all this ritualized organized cabalistic typically organized religion (& nut cult) stuff. Again, yech.

+ You are entitled to your value judgment, but others are entitled to disagree. I think it is too soon after the formation of the CEW to judge it, particularly in this manner. +

JOHN BERRY The days have gone when egoboo was even a token thought, and therefore I must be honest and confess that I now have no interest in the results of any polls. Actually, I violently disagree with polls, and have said so with some emphasis in my SAPSzine. For several years I was top writer in many polls, including FANAC Carr ones, and of course, when I saw Tucker and Bloch coming 3rd or 4th behind me, I knew the whole thing was a farce. So insofar as biographical notes are concerned, maybe you can con a few facts from the recent WHO'S WHO IN SFF. Broyles.]

+ If polls are a farce, maybe it might be better to try to make them more meaningful instead of boycotting them. I would like other reader reactions to this issue. My own disagreement with the results of the fourth FANAC poll is not going to result in my dropping the project. +

ALFRED McCOY ANDREWS Thanks for the recent issues...FANAC is informative, witty and fascinating as always. That cartoon of the lawyer in the Moskowitz-White legal battle truly broke me up; it is indeed a masterpiece of sharp satire. [Take a bow, Dorf....]

MARTHA COHEN I have been in a mild state of chronic gafia ever since I entered fandom, but... FANAC keeps me in touch with what is happening. ... I am trying to think of some suitably unstuffy way to say that I think you have completely carried on the tradition of FANAC. I wonder whether you are writing FANAC or FANAC is using you to write itself.



CYNTHIA GOLDSTONE First, I'd like to tell you that I think you have much skill as a writer. FANAC is very enjoyable indeed--so thanks and carry on! ... The main excuse for this note is to tell you of Ron & Cindy Smith's departure--in case you want it from the horse's mouth.

I approached Pier 32 [San Francisco] from Brannan St. (walking) and mighod! coming up that mighty British steamer ORCADES on a clear and beautiful morning at the Port of S.F. filled me with an ancient wanderlust. The Smiths hadn't yet gotten down to the gangway to leave a pass for me to board, but I stood around looking so woebegone that the Ship's Officer finally dug into a stack of passes and gave me one that had been left for William Cook (I do hope William somehow made it aboard later on). So I clambered on, walking down halls for a long time till I got to the Tourist Purser's office, obtained the Smiths' room number and threaded me way there. They were just coming out of their door, together with Cindy's mother and two near-neighbors in Canyon (whose names I don't recall). We crowded into their stateroom, minuscule and compact with tiered bunks and a porthole, and sipped the hot mulled wine I had conjured up in our railroad flat and toted in a thermos. We told 'em it wasn't too late to back out. They demurred. They seemed neither happy nor sad--a trifle dazed, perhaps. I told them to please try to do something about keeping Fred Schwarz [the Crusader] at home. They were asked whether folks from the U.S. were called people from Up-Over.

Time was getting short-ish so we wandered over our section of the ship. Imagining the endless water around them for 19 days (although they would stop at Long Beach, Hawaiian Islands and the Fiji Islands before arriving in Australia) we decided that if they became claustrophobic in their minute cabin, they could always come up on deck and suffer agoraphobia, thereby achieving some sort of balance. Too jolly well soon the loudspeakers began to judge us off the ship, then came the hideous process of saying goodbye--Cindy's mother hurried off alone (one can imagine her feelings).

In their Flight from Doomsday (that's the name of an article by Grant Flint in the 1/20/62 Nation about all the groups that are forming with plans to found their societies on various islands and other remote spots) I certainly wish the Smiths well. Most of our friends feel as we do, that they wouldn't want to be around Afterward, anyway, and that existence per se isn't worth the enormous sacrifice of leaving all the people, things and scenes that give life its value. But of course if we get razed, I'm glad the Smiths will have grieved. I just hope Fred Schwarz will be in S.F. at the time.

+ Thanks for this account; I am sorry it was delayed in coming out, but believe it is less likely to become dated--as the human side of a universal scene--than <sup>would</sup> mere newsreporting.  
# I dig your artwork both in fmz and at the Season Art Show. Keep up the good work. +

SID BIRCHBY This thing about the Moskowitz-White Lawsuit is all very laughable to fandom at large, I know, but I can quite see what a serious matter it could be if it were pressed. Sooner or later it may happen like that, if the 'Let's go to law' attitude goes on. Seems to me that someone could render a service to fandom by pubbing a Neo's Guide to Litigation, or How Close to the Wind Can I Sail? [Do you think he'll sue?]

Anglofandom is in a way even more likely to get involved with the law, because, although the present members are (as far as I know) devoid of tetchy characters, the English law of libel is stricter than yours. In fact, it's hard to say whether such&such a statement would be actionable or not, in advance of the event, and lawyers are generally reluctant to do so.

Lawyers are invariably reluctant to commit themselves about anything, of course! [Unless they're named Stanley Seitel, to judge from That Letter...]

You have a remarkably good news coverage, haven't you? I haven't anywhere read a better account of the Con, although I've heard bits and pieces quoted from various sources, e.g. Ted Sturgeon's speech. ... # I very much enjoyed your article on censorship in BANE. [Thanks.]

BUCK COULSON I pretty well lost interest in the FANAC poll when Terry failed to publish his results last year. There are so damned many polls and questionnaires in fandom anyway; why bother with one to a zine that's already a year behind? Illogical, of course, since the editorship had changed, but that's why I didn't bother to vote. That and the fact that Willick's howraving over the Fan Achievement Awards led me to reappraise all fan polls and decide that they didn't amount to much, anyway. Sheer apathy, as far as I was concerned. [All polls? How about the one you circulate each year on YANDRO material?]

YANDRO seems to attract femfans. Somebody made the pronouncement in some fmz or other that females comprised only 5% of fandom--I checked our readership and noted that females comprise



15% of YANIRO-fandom. So if this character is correct (which I doubt, but what the hell) we have 3 times the feminine readership of the average fmz. (And I left out people like Chrystal Tackett because I wasn't sure she read it, and then got a note from her showing that she does. So we may have better than a 15% female audience.)

+ There are at least 48 females known to read FANAC out of a total readership of 330-350. This doesn't count possible mundane or neofan wives or pseudonyms. I make this about 14%, possibly higher. # The envelope enclosing this letter bore on back an AMVETS flag stamp, "So Proudly We Hail", looking like some kind of fundraising gimmick comparable to Xmas seals.]

ROY TACKETT The trouble with a newszine such as FANAC is that it becomes taken for granted.

Whenever one of the genzines shows up I'm usually moved to write a loc of some sort but with FANAC it is a matter of reading, mumbling something to the effect of "that's interesting" and letting it go at that with never a thought that perhaps Walter Breen likes to receive letters of comment, too. [Well, hardly ever. wbj] There's really not much one can say about FANAC except that it is an excellent means of keeping up with what is going on in fandom. Particularly appreciated by such as me who are ~~down~~ in the hinterlands most of the time. And such items as the new postal requirements (in #84) are definitely useful. This was an item I didn't know about and I suspect many other faneds were unaware of it, too. The fmz reviews are also a department I hope you continue (and thanx for the kind words.)....Keep the duper rolling.

SETH JOHNSON Frankly the reason I tell you my attitude towards the Moscovitz White tempest in a teapot is that I feel fandom is seriously hurt by recurring feuds of this type, and that if faneds would simply ignore the things a lot of them would never happen in the first place since I suspect half of them are started for publicity purposes rather than anything else. So that's why I tell you instead of the feudists. Although [sic] I think I mentioned my attitude to White. As to Chris I might at some future date when she has simmered down about the thing make my attitude clear.

[from a later letter] Thanks for any publicity and mention of Fanzine Clearing House in FANAC. I try to stuff as many magazines as possible into all FCH bundles. However the quality varies from bundle to bundle since most of the faneds who really pub the ideal fanzine for non fen [?] send only one copy per month. I send out five bundles a month. # So my solution is fairly simple. I stick a old backissue of SHAGGE, a late TNFF, TIGHTREAM, THRU THE HAZE and ISFCC OO THE EXPLORER. I generally have up to ten envelopes with these basics enclosed. Then when an order comes in all current fmz which have arrived here get shoved into the top bundle, and then the envelope is stuffed full with older fanzines from one or two years back. ... You see my ideal is to serve the non fan or neo fan first, 2<sup>nd</sup> to recruit for N3F in particular, and 3<sup>rd</sup> to recruit and serve genfandom in general.

BOB SMITH When your fine conrep, "The Admirable Crycon" arrived, I decided that it alone was worth a short loc, and I did suggest to Japanese fan Takumi Shibano that if he was looking for a decent report on the Seacon he should try the FANAC version--whether he will or not, I dunno. [I haven't heard from him about it.] My main beef these days is with the "World" Con organizations who do not cater to the overseas s-f fan (and the US types who can't attend, of course), and fail to present a final "report" covering the main speeches, etc. The whole idea of a "World"con falls down here, I feel. Yours did a fairly reasonable job. # I like this idea of occasional lettercol supplement with FANAC--hope it'll continue. I noticed that Fred Galvin writes: "...reporting what was said in the various speeches and discussions was a worthwhile innovation." Hell, I'd say that considering it was a World con this was flamin' well essential! And that "what does it have to do with science fiction?" probably sums up the feelings of many a sf fan these days, no? Certainly hope you "do" the Chicon this year. # Keep up the good work and who knows? you might even go weekly. [Sydney, Australia]

+ Not without a co-editor, and not as long as I have MA thesis & PhD dissertation to write.  
# Your bitch about the "World" con is of a piece with the baseball fan's gripe about the "World" series. About 1/6 of my mailing list is overseas fen, and I did have them and other non-attendees in mind when I wrote that conrep. As for the Chicon, my report on that will be in WARHOON, and your question about what it has to do with s-f was also answered there by Bergeron, and before him also by Jack Harness and Lewis Grant at the Seacon fan panel. +

ALBERT LEWIS I see my sub is expiring. \$1 enclosed. Please don't try to emulate the publishing schedule of SFTimes. [The expedient of sending out pairs of issues was temporary and its motivation was a need to cut postage bills in half. With a print order & mailing list climbing from 225 to almost 350 in a matter of a few months, this was inevitable. With increasing size of issues & riders the amount of postage saved by sending issues in pairs dwindles.]



DONALD A WOLLHEIM Noting with horror that my sub to FANAC fizzed out with #80 whereas the latest ish is #82, I hasten to enclose \$1 for the next 10. # Interesting as ever, confused, and messily newsworthy. [Thank you, I think.] # Looks as if you are trying to play the part of a mustard plaster on the White/C---- suit--namely a counter-irritant likely to draw blood away from the main infection. Or likely to draw blood. By reprinting the allegedly damaging references, you are making yourself a second target. May make legal history. # Meanwhile I know of at least two other legal matters going on involving fandom which do not seem to have made the fan press. Both of which are decidedly nastier in every way than the C---- matter. But why publicize them...

+ No blood here yet. Ted's lawyer does not believe that my account in FANAC 82 is libelous, and I'm content with that decision. # I see no reason to refrain from publicizing these other lawsuits if indeed they involve fandom rather than individuals in their nonfannish capacities. I think I know the two you refer to, but I was not aware that suit had actually been filed. If they are the LA and Chicago messes, it's unlikely that the former will get to court, and about the latter I will say nothing unless I have heard from both sides--fair enough? If an issue involving all of fandom, e.g. free speech in fmz (which neither of these does), is challenged by suit or threat of suit, it deserves and needs wide coverage. (This answers you, Seth; it isn't merely a matter of fandom getting a bad name in the mundane press. It's had that ever since the original "Gosh, wow! Boy oh boy!" bit in the 1939 Time coverage.) +

POUL ANDERSON Since when have I stated that Communist regimes are just another corrupt autocracy? The only remark of mine I can think of which might be so interpreted was in HAWAKKUK a while ago, and amounted to something like our era not so much being especially horrible as, perhaps, merely returning to the norm of history after a short interlude of unusually sunny weather. [The thesis of Charles Galton Darwin, The Next Million Years, in short?] In this I was thinking less of particular forms of government than of the mass-scale torture, slaughter and slavery which are all too probably on the agenda of the next ten or fifteen years. These are the norm. All kinds of agriculture-based societies, with rare exceptions, used to practice them on everyone who couldn't fight back. Barring unusual individuals like Cortez and Torquemada (you heard me), the idea that the powerful had much of an obligation toward the weak alien is hardly two centuries old. # My view of Communism is akin to Heinlein's: a holistic missionary religion. Its abominations are those which anyone must practice who wants to force man into the straitjacket of a theory about man's nature.

+ I suppose you mean the Inquisitor General Tomás de Torquemada rather than Don Pedro or Padre Juan. I still don't get the significance of your giving him as an example of the powerful having an obligation toward the weak alien, unless indeed you simply mean that T. felt obliged to bring such people back to the True Faith...roughly the obligation O'Brien felt towards Winston Smith. # Mass-scale torture, etc., being the norm, yes; the imminent possibility for universal extinction of the human species is not the historical norm. But I answer this at length in HAB 7, whenever Donaho gets around to running it off. # Your view of communist abominations isn't that far from Castillo's, as given in AN EGOBOO A DAY FROM ALL OVER #2, however great your other disagreements with him. But de mortuis, for Laney's sake...+

TERRY JEEVES Re this Moskowitz thing. I feel that whatever the factors involved, no one is forced to be in fandom. No fan staying in fandom is forced to indulge in a slanging match, and finally, if some nit does both these things, then if they lose they should give up both rather than run to some dollar a day lawyer to turn their defeat into a Pyrrhic victory. Me, I've never met Chris M., but I don't want to either. # I really coggle at the new FANAC and hope you can keepup that beautiful repro. [TW, take a bow.]

KEVIN LANGDON Walter, you've made a few mistakes in your reply to Fred Galvin. To his "A slave may not always be a slave, but a dead man will always be dead", your reply of "I suggest you read 1984..." is inappropriate. The key word here is "may". You have shown that a slave may always be a slave, but even Aristotle knew that this is not the negation of Galvin's statement. [I was treating an emotional statement as such.] Given the present leaders in both East and West, your conference table suggestion is incredibly naïve. [Stalling for time, of course.] # The killing of innocent women and children, while regrettable, is not the main issue. It is sometimes necessary to kill innocent people so that more innocent people will not die. The main objection to nuclear weapons is that they may mean race suicide, as you very well know. Is the man who indulges in passive resistance really becoming a slave? I hardly think so. The slave allows his behavior to be dictated by others. The passive resistor is allowing no one to govern his activities regardless of the consequences. [Which may involve being dragged off to a slave labor camp and brainwashed.]



This is not meant as a defense of the liberal "better red than dead" position, but this is not Galvin's position. Of course, Galvin has made some errors, too. He would rather be a corpse than a murderer, but it has long been established that it is not murder to kill someone in selfdefense. [Is it selfdefense to fight for General Motors, or to take part in a bombing raid?] Furthermore, the world may be a much better place with him dead and you alive than the other way around--particularly if he is murdering type.

The better-red-than-dead position is not applicable in any case to the real world situation. We may ask, "Would you rather be electrocuted or burnt to death," and derive considerable enjoyment from it if we are of a masochistic turn of mind, but we are not likely ever to actually have to make the decision. The pertinent questions are: 1) Does the current world situation justify the severe curtailment of civil liberties that we in the USA are suffering? and 2) In case of a nuclear attack, are we justified in retaliating? # My answer to both questions is "no" and I'm sure that both you and Fred would agree with me. Thus there is no more real area of disagreement than there would be if you preferred electrocution and Fred preferred burning.

RICK SNEARY A poll by FANAC or anyone else merely is an expression of the feeling of those that read that magazine or belong in that group. The Fan Awards seemingly are being made to sound like the judgment of Fandom as a whole--which it cannot be. Not even if all fans voted...Fans can honestly vote only for fmz they have seen & read. Few if any fans see all the fmz.. Thus a good big fmz is seen by more than a good little fmz--and stands a better chance. My feeling is that an Awards Committee, of say 20 fans, elected by fandom, would be able to give a more honest and meaningful award. [Then, from a later letter:]

Okay... In answer to your request for more information I'll enlarge on my Awards idea.. I don't think it will get all the ground.. No one I've mentioned it to so far has liked it.. But...you might take more kindly to this.. # My objection to the [Willick] poll as it now stands--as to all general fan polls to different degrees is (a) not all those who vote have seen all the possible entries; (b) not all those who vote are qualified to cast a judgement.. This comes from my own personal feeling that I would rather have the approval of those whose opinions I respected, than ten times their number of mere fans.. # The system I thought of...was that the awards would be made by a committee of fanish experts.. Or, at least those more respected in their own area. Five from each of the 3 US Con Zones, 5 from overseas, and possibly 5 from the Con Committee--but I have since lost interest in that last. # As I envision it each year the fans in a Zone would nominate a slate of at least 5 candidates.. I've not worked out how this would be done, but it is a small problem.. Now I don't know if voting should be limited to ones own Zone or if a fan should be able to vote for 5 fans from each area.. The Committee will, after-all, be voting on fmz from all over--It would prevent local cliques flooding the ballot box.--A small donation would be asked, to cover the expense of the awards.. # The Committee would serve one year, before voting. As their election would indicate they were BIF, it is likely that they would be getting most of the fmz already.. But any fan-ed who thought he might stand a chance could easily make sure all the judges received a copy.. Thus one could be fairly sure that all the Judges had had a chance to see everything. # They would ballot in the regular way, and make the awards. Awards that would really mean something, because they were presented by the 20 top fans (more or less). [Comments?]

BOB JENNINGS I denote [sic] again that you seem to be injected sharp pointed spikes and darts towards one Sam Moskowitz. I will take your word for it that Sam is a disagreeable, argumentative, not-seemingly a likable type person. I'll take your word for it mainly because even in the short 2 years I've been in fandom its been proven to me time & again. However, I object to you going out of your way to make snide remarks about him, or to inject little cynical snapping notes directed his way here&there thruout everything you publish or write. This is Spite. And while I bear Sam no love, it impresses me that you are sinking to just about his level by deliberately going out of your way to make nasty little remarks to him. Hell, you've told us what a bastard he is, and we believe you, now just ignore him, as he should have been all along. # Whyinhell don't you make An Egoboo... a sort of WB Usual, that is, a once a month or two publication which could be sent out along with FANAC...? [That way lies HABAKKUKISM] # Oh yeah, I thought your con report was pretty good, but slightly overwritten (more spice and less names if you please), but it was much enjoyed. (All strictly sic.)

+ The other three pages of this letter, and others received in the meantime, will go into the next issue of AN EGOBOO... I am especially interested in reactions to Sneary's proposal for fandom-wide awards, with reasons, pro and con. +