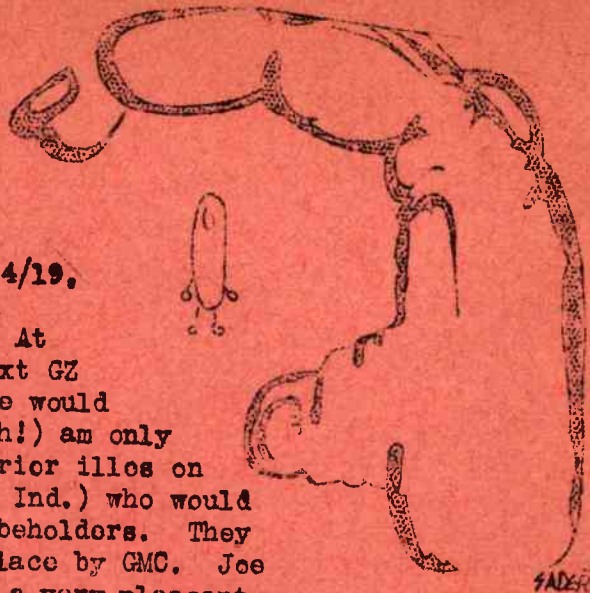


GEMZINE

4/19

BAITBOX

If the above heading looks like it's kind of sagging in the middle, it's because that's the way I feel just about now... But I finally made it and this is the nineteenth issue of my fourth fanzine title, namely, GEMZINE 4/19, and it has the honor of wearing a cover by Richard Bergeron -- my first attempt at a Stenofax cover. At this time, April 25, 1958, I have hopes that my next GZ may be an all-Bergeron issue. Richard mentioned he would like an opportunity to develop a theme and I (natch!) am only too happy to offer my GZ as the vehicle. The interior illos on this issue are by Joe Sanders (R.R. #1, Roachdale, Ind.) who would doubtless enjoy a word of comment from interested beholders. They were worked directly on stencil and spliced into place by GMC. Joe is one of the fans I met at Midwescon last summer; a very pleasant-spoken, rather unassuming but not shy or backward, sort of lad (probably he really rates being called a young man, but anything under thirty rates as a 'lad' to old Grandma Carr.) Which is all in the way of saying that it is well worth while taking the time and trouble to attend a Convention -- you never know what'll come of it.



SOUTH GATE IN '58

RON BENNETT FOR TAFF

One reason for my last minute rush on GZ is that I've been typing Income Tax Returns for an accountant up the street at \$1 per to fatten the kitty for my Convention expenses. The only trouble with the job was that now I'm so exhausted that I don't know if I ever will recover sufficiently to make the trip! I typed so many figures that now I don't even have to look at the top row of my machine... (I'm just bragging, of course, but it did help a little.)

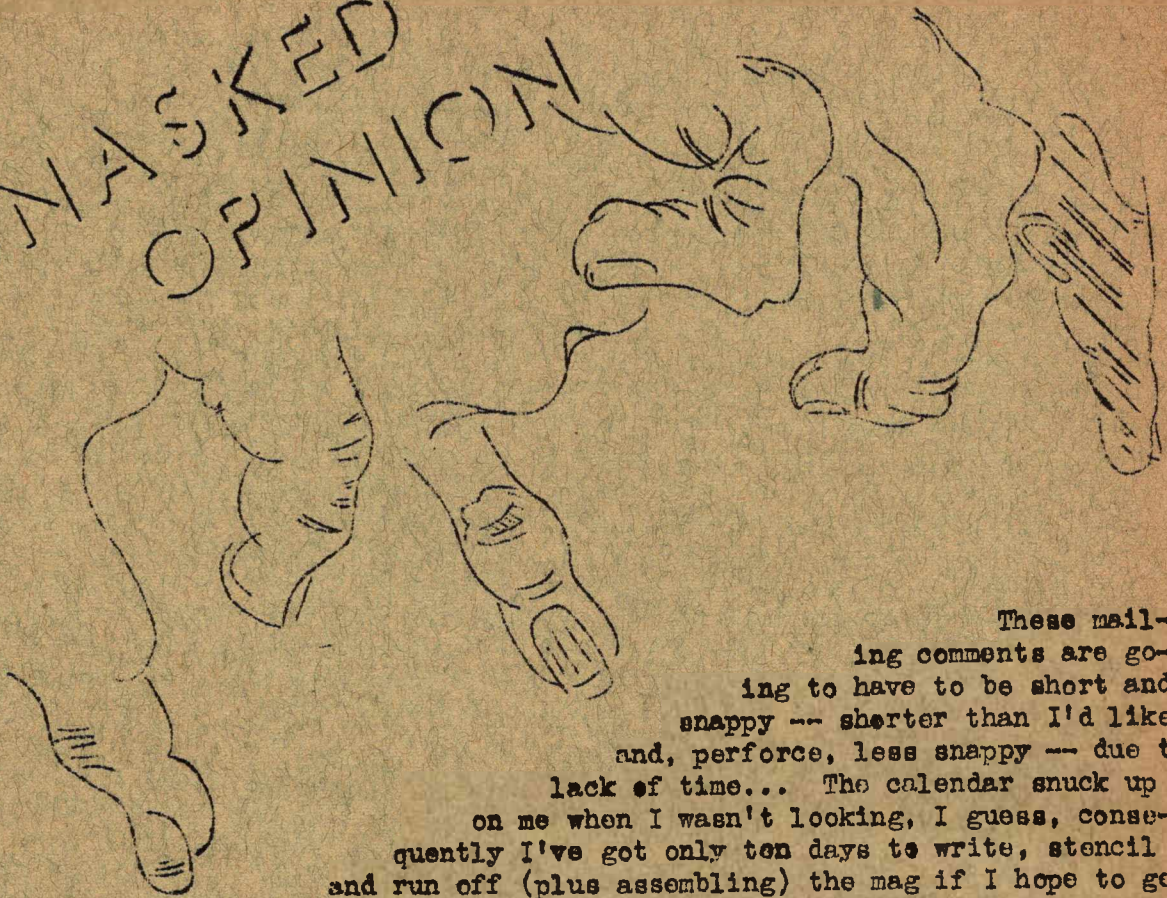
Re POLITICAL PROZINES: At last I have discovered a magazine in whose political atmosphere I can breathe freely and with the same gusty delight that one gulps in the invigorating tang of fresh sea breezes, or the pine-scented ozone of a mountain's air. It is so far to the Right, politically, that it sounds wildly radical -- making even the SATEVEPOST sound like a dull echo of the "liberal" press. No doubt the NATIONAL REVIEW would give Walt Willis, et al, the same intellectual nausea that THE REPORTER gave me, but I find it heady reading. It's wonderful to find the ideas I've been groping for in my own mind, given word in print and saying (far better than I could) those very things that I thought I was alone in thinking! It reassures me no end to discover that when you FAPans call me a fugghead because my ideas are so far off the beaten track -- it isn't because I'm a fugghead at all. It's because my ideas are off the same old beaten track; so very far off that you guys just simply are not able to get out of your dreary rut of so-called 'liberal thinking' far enough to understand the full implications of what it is that I am trying to say! Like Hitchcock, for instance, so full of the old cliché about the Russian Peasants being the "slaves of the rulers" that he was unable to realize that in Russia today there IS a form of slavery being practiced which has nothing at all to do with Czarist Russia! (See E&E) -- Or Richard Geis being so deeply embedded in the treadmill of 'liberal' ideas of 'broadmindedness' that he isn't able to recognize the difference between personal idealism and political expediency. But most of all, I find it extremely heartening to discover that there is an intellectual renaissance among the Far-Right Conservatives; that we are not so far isolated from one another that we have to sit back and see the political abuses of the encroaching Socialism without lifting a hand against it. It's a genuine pleasure to me to pick up a well-written, well-grounded publication wherein I can find the stimulating discussions and brisk thinking that I used to find in FAPA. Now (aside from my own vociferations) all I seem to be able to find is the same old line of weary propaganda the 'liberal' press has been plugging for the past 20 years. Wake up, boys! Or you'll be left behind among the rest of the fuggheads.

Re: Teacups vs Rorschalk Tests. In one of the 'zines in this mailing (I've forgotten just which it was and haven't the time to look it up) mention was made of one difficult with the Ink Blot Tests -- as they put it, "No allowance for cultural differences". Every once in a while I enjoy reading the tealeaves... Not that I am a fortunoteller, or that I even believe what I see. But I do enjoy it nevertheless. I cannot predict the future -- my gift is limited solely to seeing what is in the cup -- I can't interpret what it 'means' if anything. For instance, one morning I found a very interesting, even you might call it a beautiful, cup. The first thing I saw was the figure of a Saint with The Child on his arm. There are 3 conventional representations of male saints with the Babe: St. Joseph, St. Anthony, and St. Christopher. This was probably the latter, from the forward-leaning position -- the patron saint of travellers. It was a clearly distinct figure, complete even to the double halo around the two heads. Far in the background, over the right shoulder, was a distant airplane. Under the figure, forming a column in the path left by fallen tears, were angels holding up a figure wrapped in swaddling clothes like the Blessed Bambino in a Della Robia plaque but wearing shoes. I was reminded of the Biblical verse "He shall give his angels charge over thee, and they shall bear thee up lest thou shouldst dash thy foot against a stone.." Then, in the bottom, I saw a mountain chain. It's snow-covered peaks and shadowed valleys formed the conventional profile and bust of the Sleeping Beauty. When I turned the cup, it brought into focus a close-up of the face. She was remarkably sweet and beautiful, with a gentle goodness and keen intelligence. The shape of the head and the outline of the hairdo indicated an unusually large brainpan. Just inside this head, was another female outline just the opposite: a curly-headed, impish pickaninny-head, with glinting humor in every curve. A completely amoral but good-natured personality, with no standards of behavior other than whatever amused that bubbling sense of humor.. A typical Topsy-and-Eva dichotomy.

I suspect that the same elements which make for Teacup reading are used in the Ink Blot Tests. But in the one case, the images seen in the cup are supposed to refer to the spectator rather than the reader, and in the Rorschalk tests it is the other way around. I have been wondering what would happen if a Teacup Clairvoyant were to read Rorschalk Inkblot tests... For instance, suppose the "Fortune-Teller" were to gaze into an inkblot test card which the person presented after the usual rigamarole of turning it around three times and wishing on it. Would the Clairvoyant see only the same things in the inkblot for each person, or would the blot act like the tealeaves as a focal point for ESP? Would the cards test only the mind of the reader (in which case the imagery would presumably remain the same for each person) or would the same card present different images for each person whose "fortune" was being "told"? It's an interesting point -- anybody have any information on the subject? Nangee? Ency!

Re: TAFF and the Willis Apology: The so-called 'feud' is still raging merrily in the letter column and mailing comments, but by now it is evident that Willis's main fault lay in his willingness to believe the whispered smears and scandal-mongering that was going on via tapes and private letters. Perhaps it was expecting too much of the man to think he could suspend his adverse judgement in the face of his personal disappointment that his favored candidate did not win, especially in the face of the kind of back-fence gossiping that some of our fans were indulging in... some of our most respected FAPans, too! For shame! We could expect this kind of malicious back-biting from small-town back-fence experts, but when we find out that supposedly fair-minded and honorable fans have been hinting at unethical practices that did not exist, and smearing by this cowardly caution the innocent bystanders in a fair contest, it is not very pleasant to take. I still hold Walt culpable for his lack of faith in the people here in the US -- people he had met even if the rest of the Britifen hadn't -- but I also point the finger of shame at those US fans who were responsible for this tangle of lies and malicious half-truths. I won't mention your names -- yet. But if the shoe fits, put it on! And the next time you start spreading malicious rumors, you had better name the right names and give all the details! This cowardly hinting and hush-hush whispering is far worse than blurting out the whole truth and NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH!

UNMASKED OPINION



J.S.

These mailing comments are going to have to be short and snappy -- shorter than I'd like and, perforce, less snappy -- due to lack of time... The calendar snuck up on me when I wasn't looking, I guess, consequently I've got only ten days to write, stencil and run off (plus assembling) the mag if I hope to get it in the mail in time to reach Eney for the deadline. Fortunately, I did scribble some notes when I read the mailing, so I guess I can hastily copy them down and hope for the best. No time for long, elaborate replies, however. Which will probably be a relief to some of you...if you're not mentioned at all, sorry -- no more time!

NANCYEL - Nan Gerding. Welcome to F&PA, Nan, I'm glad to see you finally made it. Dunno if it was the 'nowmoanya' or what, but I enjoyed your comments immensely. Even found a couple of things I wanted to comment about -- so urgently, in fact, that I hastened forthwith to find a pencil and make marginal notes lest I forget. (and a doggone good thing too, let me add, or I'd probably never gotten around to doing them!) One reason I take the extra time and trouble to paste a strip of paper tape down the spine of GZ is that it thus qualifies for "Book Rate" and no matter how much quibbling and fingernail chewing the Postal Clerks may wish to do, I can politely murmur "Book Rate" and they have to accept it because the regulations classify anything over 20 pages with bound edges as a 'book'. You'd be surprised how much argument it saves. Another commentworthy thing is your mention of the difficulty of finding anyone who is willing to talk (or think) openly about death. In spite of the fact that human beings theoretically know that everybody has to die, it is exceedingly odd to see how reluctant people are to admit it to themselves. When I was much younger, I once asked a preacher why he prayed so hard for a pain-ridden incurable to be kept alive when said invalid was supposedly a good Christian candidate for Eternal Bliss and one would assume only too anxious to exchange the pain of this life for the glories of the next... Naturally, when one asks a foolish question one receives a foolish answer -- in this case some gobbledygook which was no answer at all -- but the question has stayed with me all these years and the only answer I've been able to figure out for it is that neither the Preacher nor the Incurable really believed in the Heaven they talked about. As for me, I regard death as something to look forward to as the answer to a lot of puzzling questions. The worst that could possibly be would be nothing at all -- and in that case I'd never know it so I wouldn't be disappointed!

WRAITH - Wrai Ballard. I have sometimes wondered why it is that I have not been able to become interested in the Disneyland presentations of Science and the "futureland". The programs I have seen (particularly those on rockets) seemed to me to be well done and to cover the material in an interesting fashion and, for all that I could tell, in an adequate - not to say a very competent - manner. But in spite of the fact that it covered material with which I should presumably (as a stiff enthusiast) be concerned, I found it rather namby-pamby. Perhaps the presentation was just a little too simple -- being aimed at audiences more the mental age of my grandchildren (who seem to be fascinated by the programs). But even at that, Disney present much less insult to the intelligence than some of the so-called "Science" releases apparently aimed at the highschool students. Two that I have seen: one an explanation of weather phenomena called "Unchained Goddess" or some such silly name, and the other "Hemo the Magnificent" explaining the circulatory system, were utterly disgusting in their baby-talk attitude. Whoever was responsible for these releases must have a very peculiar notion indeed of the teen-age mentality! By the way, has anyone else noticed that Truman Bradley is back with another series for "Science Fiction Theatre"? This group of stories seems to be a little better (since sputnik) than the earlier series(..hmm, wonder what's the plural of 'series'..serieses? Serii? guess I'd better take time to look it up...).. uh.. series, but still nothing worth missing anything else for, in my opinion. However, it is the best attempt to transfer sf to a visual medium of any that I have seen so far. At least, the producer does attempt to convey the 'sense of wonder' and a sense of the extrapolated possibilities of present-day knowledge in little known areas of science.

HORIZONS - Harry Warner. Oh, it wasn't anything so drastic as rape that I had in mind, just the semi-serious scufflings of courtship; those skirmishes whereby the young male tests the firmness of the female's "No" and thereby provides her with a blameless excuse for yielding to her own inclinations by apparently succumbing to his superior strength... James Branch Cabell has done the most delightful dissection of this form of courting mores of any author I've yet run across. Wish I could recall the titles -- several of his essays touched on the subject, but I think LET ME LIE was the most outspoken. Judging by the distaste you exhibit toward my prying into your levelife, Harry, I suspect you've missed out on an awful lot of fun and are more afraid that I will discover how little experience you've had along that line, than that I will find out how much... But why worry about it? If you've lived your life according to the way that seems right to you, why should you be afraid that someone else finds out about it?

BOBOLINGS - Pavlat. Well, now we're getting somewhere! Yes, I agree with you that it is foolish to discuss changes to the FAPA Constitution in the terms of generalities. By all means, let us refer to specific instances rather than dismiss all change as 'bad' or applaud it as 'good'. I will accept your rebuke (just to throw Ted W. off his stride since he insists I never do...) about not being so stubborn in clinging to the present Constitution. However, I still do not approve many of the specific changes proposed. Unfortunately, I waited too late before starting this to go into all the things item by item, so will content myself by just a couple: I see no reason for cluttering up the FAPA Constitution with all the gobbledygook of this semi-legal language. In its previous form it was easy to read and understand, in this proposed form it is an almost unintelligible jumble -- difficult to read and difficult to understand what you are reading. There's no point in making a simple spa constitution as involved and technical as an Income Tax Return! Also, I see no reason for bringing up temporary administrative problems like what to do with husband-and-wife memberships, or what to do with the Waiting List, and embalming them permanently in the Constitution. Once they have been included in the Constitution, it will be almost impossible to get rid of husband-and-wife memberships in case it should be desirable to do so, and I can even foresee the possibility that in another Decade it might be impossible for an unmarried person to join FAPA because they cannot produce a spouse! Furthermore, all this elaboration on the nature of the Mailings and what should be included is completely unnecessary -- it is just a lot of verbose padding which adds nothing of value and could conceivably restrict future mailings by omitting from its carefully detailed provisions some as yet unknown duplication media. In short, I think the proposals are just silly!

TARGET FAPA - Richard Eney. In commenting on PHLOTSAM Eney says, "The problem of busses for parochial schools isn't a matter of 'being fair', but of being neutral. In the United States tax money just isn't used to support religious sects. Think about the opposite case for a moment, and consider how the RCs would scream blood fire and murder if the government started to use their taxes to subsidize Methodist church schools." Transporting children from their homes to their schools can scarcely be considered "to support religious sects", Richard. No matter how hard you squeeze it, you just simply can't make out that carrying kids from their homes to their place of education is a religious function. Since children of Methodists and Baptists and what-have-you ride on busses provided by the State, why shouldn't the children of Catholics? Particularly since the Catholic parents are paying for the upkeep of the busses? If this service (which is provided out of the common tax fund) is not to be given to all children equally, then it should not be given to any children. Discriminating against Catholic children in a matter of transportation is unfair -- particularly since they do not get any other return for the money which is taken from their parents' pockets and placed arbitrarily in the school budget, whether the children use the school systems or not.

LOOKING BACKWARD - Bill Evans. "...another example of how you (break affinity) is on page 5, in the discussion of 45 speeds. Everything you say is true, but it gives the impression that you feel that the whole record industry is out of step...the tone of the article makes me think there is a large Douglas fir toothpick on the GMC shoulder. It rankles." Good observation...but I don't know what I can do about it. In the above instance there was definitely an irritation present and although the irritation was directed at the record industry for the inconvenience it caused me, personally, I can see that this feeling of emotional uneasiness would be picked up by the reader even tho the latter was an innocent bystander... But, as I say, in a matter of this kind I don't know how to avoid it. Actually, I suppose I could start buying 45s because the record players I now have will utilize them. But, as I said elsewhere, it is the eternal nuisance of switching back and forth; of changing knobs and pressing buttons; of taking time to catch all the little details necessary in changing from a 10" 78 to a 12" LP to a 7" 45, for instance, if I happen to want to play certain selections in that sequence, that annoys me. It annoys me so much, in fact, that I would rather do without the music than bother with the manual attentions required. And the frustration is directed at the record industry for making such a variety of sizes and speeds. The fact that the record industry makes a profit or not (as the case may be) is, to me, definitely a side issue... But the blazing fire of my wrath (even at a distance via paper) evidently makes strong men blench and FAPAns tremble... (Wish it affected the record industry that way!) ... and breaks an otherwise ^{friendly} meeting of minds. Do you suppose it would help if I wrote only about pleasant topics? (Or would all that "Sweetness and Light" have a nauseating effect in the long run?) REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST makes me wonder

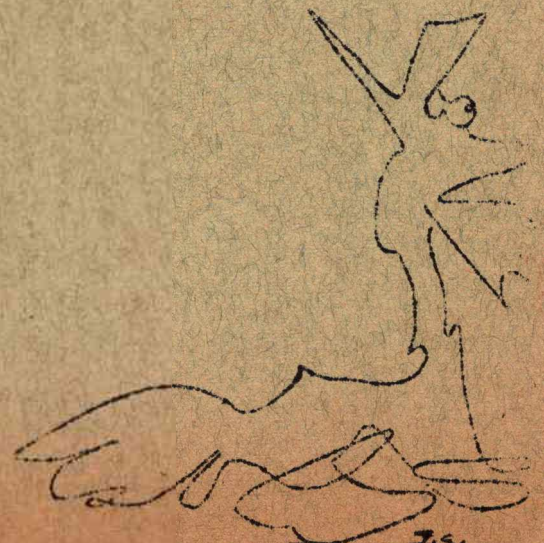
if fan fiction in the early days really was so much better than the current fan fiction, or if it is the halo surrounding it that gives much of its lustre. There is some pretty good stuff being pubbed nowadays, but the current tendency to look down one's nose at "fan-crud" rather obscures its merits. Nice job on ROTP.

4066

LARK - Bill Danner. Good Heavens! This will never do! I don't know if FAPA can stand it (I know it won't bother Bill at all, because he doesn't read GZ anyway since I defeated him in an invective-hurling contest) to see me actually agree with Bill about something.. even just one teeny, weeny little paragraph ..but at least in one of his statements I must admit I do concur. What he said about Jack Harness' medical qualifications was so pithily stated that I wish I had said it myself!

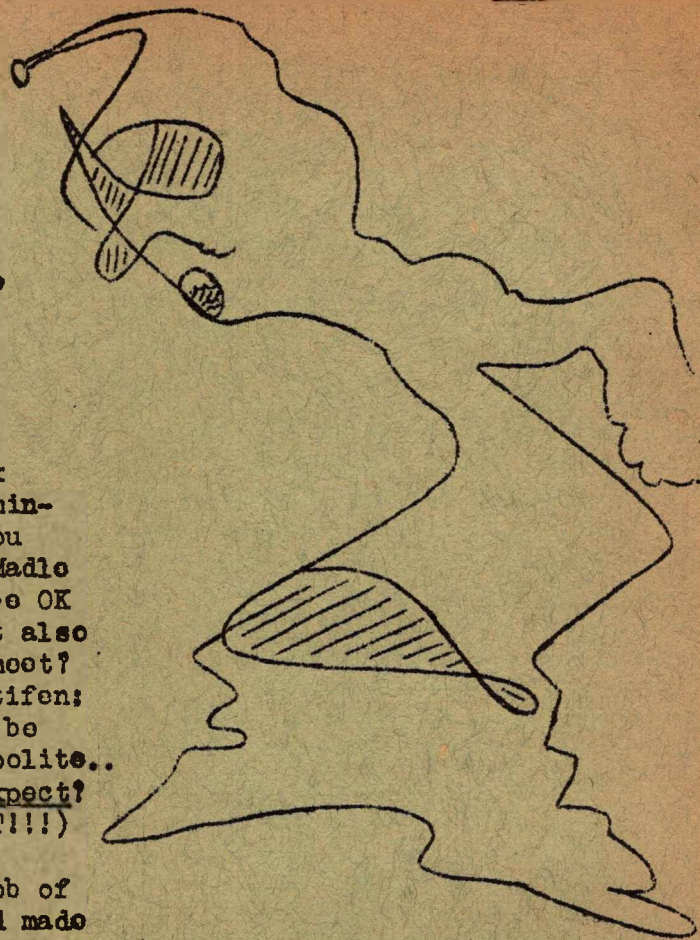
PAMPHELY - Walter A. Willis. Oh, come now, Walt! No need to be quite so noble about it! One would think you were actually more concerned with clearing my good name than in clearing your own of the booboo which left you vulnerable to the charge of carelessness! Besides, taking time off in the midst of an ear-chewing match to flourish a side-issue apology, gives you such a martyrish halo... You know very well that I'm missquoted in practically every mailing, and if anyone were concerned with keeping the record straight for the sake of impartial honesty, the Mailings would be full of these 'apologies'... Why, in this mailing alone, we have Harry Warner taking a poke at me for something John Champion said; Boyd Raeburn disclaiming in anguish that he didn't, either, say what I reprinted from the next-to-bottom line on page 3 of LE MOINDRE #8 (although I mentioned that it was a quotation at the time I lifted it) and seldom-seen Sally Dunn, with vague disdain, imputing to me some unmentionable "prejudice" (taking care, however, not to specify its nature nor where she thought she saw it) apparently in connection with negroes. Gosh, if I bothered to insist that every time fans rush into print to decry the things they THOUGHT I said, by demanding that they publish also what I actually DID say... the FAPA mailings would be even bigger than they are! O.K., I'll accept your apology in the spirit in which it was intended, but that doesn't let you off the hook for the bigger apology you owe Madle and the rest in the matter of your unkind comments re TAFF!

OFF THE CUFF FOR GERTRUDE - Chuck Harris. Hoo boy! When you goof you really goof! But that's what you get for jumping at conclusions without waiting for the facts... This rash and unfounded spluttering is a good example of just exactly the very attitude that I castigated. You jumped at the very worst conclusions out of nothing but your own lack of sportsmanship or good faith, without even attempting to discover the actual facts involved. There may be some excuse for you, Chuck, in being so surprised to discover that there are fans in the US who care little or nothing for ampubbing, and that these fans comprise the great majority of con-attending fandom. Those of you who know nothing of fandom except the tiny microcosm of your insular Britifandom couldn't be expected to know any better. But that does not excuse Walt Willis' attitude in this matter. He attended a US Con and he could see for himself that out of the one thousand five hundred (1500) or so attendees at the Chicago World Convention, it would be hard to find more than one hundred and fifty who were active amateur publishers. And yet every one of those 1500 attendees was entitled to be called "stf fan " by virtue of having enough interest and enthusiasm in stf fandom to spend the time, energy and money to come to such a Convention. If Walt was so blinded by the dazzle of the adulation accorded him that he did not notice this discrepancy at the time, he still had the convention membership roster and could have checked the proportion of ampubbers to non-pubbers himself. The fact was clearly evident that over here in the US, ampubbers are a very tiny minority. What's more, the very first TAFF comittee tacitly recognized this fact when they chose Don Ford as the American head of TAFF. Don Ford is not now and (to my knowledge, at least) never has been associated with fandom primarily as an ampubber.. his contacts are almost exclusively with that great majority of what WAW calls 'fringe-fans' -- the fanclubs and convention going fans. If the purpose of TAFF was to be limited to ampubbers only, why wasn't an ampubber put in charge to begin with? Why? Because ampubbers couldn't raise enough dough by themselves!



THE HAIRY BEAST - Ger Steward. The use of plicofilm on stencils apparently made little difference in your case. On my machine it makes a most distressing difference in the amount of ink that comes through the wider cuts -- as you can see by this sentence.

LONCONFIDENTIAL - Chuck Harris. Sounds like it must have been fun -- sigh! But what's this? Only 268 fans at a WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION? Brother -- you haven't seen anything yet! "...Apropos of nothing, does any of the audience believe that TAFF would have survived if Madle had fallen sick and left Hoffman to make the trip and to administer the fund next year.." Why not? As you mentioned, you hadn't heard anything about Madle prior to meeting him, and he turned out to be OK so how do you know that Stu Hoffman wouldn't also have proved to be an interesting person to meet? One odd thing I note about Conreps from Britifen: Their astonishment at discovering US fan to be "unassuming..approachable..warm..ordinary..polite..friendly..." F'r Ghu's SAKE! What did you expect? A bunch of noisy slobes? (...DON'T ANSWER THAT!!!)



BANDWAGON - Dick Ryan. Tremendously good job of describing Gettysburg. I had no idea we had made such a national Thing of this historical stuff. ..No, I don't think I'm inconsistent.. after all it wasn't the principle of the thing, it was the money! Sure, I'm for excluding a genuine undesirable if he really IS undesirable -- but that's a lot different from kicking out members because you don't like the things they happen to like and write about -- like Bibles or Green Stamps!

REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT - Martin Alger. Turned this one over to the Mr. for review... He says, "He's done a lot of research on this...interesting, too."

AMATEUR'S JOURNAL - Chick Derry. Glad to see you finally in FAPA. Reserv^{ing}/ judgement on AJ until I see your Mailing Comments -- if I like 'em I'll overlook the difficulty of reading pica mimeo with 16 wt. paper & black ink plus show-through on both sides.

LAUNDRY #1 - He&she Shaw. Ah HA! Now they're talking about Green Stamps! Anybody want to petition to kick them out of FAPA for it?

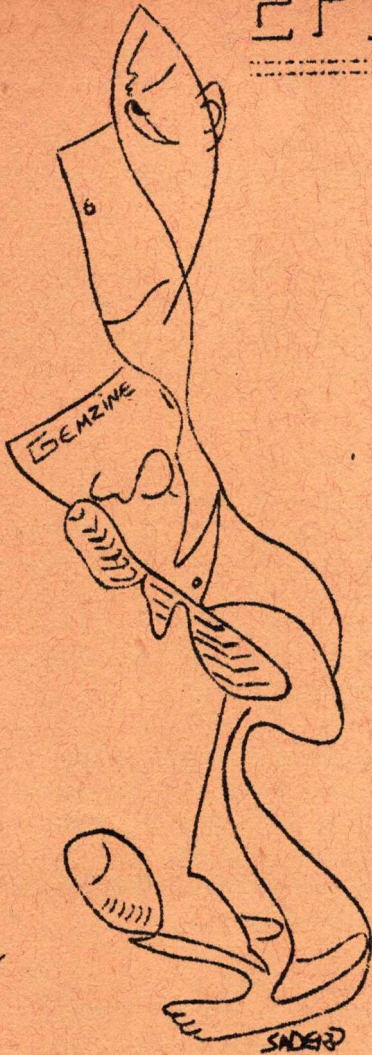
GASP 13 - Ger Steward. If I'd said that about Harry Warner, somebody would be sure to say I was jealous of his influence in FAPA! However, now that you mention the subject, I can't help but agree that on more than one occasion he has given me reason to doubt that he knows what the Hell he's talking about....

PHANTASY PRESS - Dan McPhail. Gad, what a fantastic cover! Did you save any of those photographs without the lettering?

THE DIRECTORY OF 1957 SF FANDOM. Ron Bennett. Thanks, Ron. I've used the previous one constantly. Keep it right beside my desk for easy reference... See you in SOUTHGATE.

WILFRID MYERS CRUD -- Parts 1 & 2. Gaaaah! Well, I guess maybe I am inconsistent! I poo poo Voltaire's famous statement about "I disagree with what you say but will fight to the death for your right to say it..." and then turn around and fight tooth and nail against having you kicked out of FAPA for giving us this kind of crud! I must be nuts! Why couldn't you at least back me up by turning in something worthwhile? Mailing comments, for instance? At least they contain egoboo...

EPISTLES & EGGOBOO



Jim Caughran, % Am Embassy, APO 74, Box K, San Francisco, Calif. 22 January 1958

Dear GM,

This is a new - or rather, not new, but different typer, and I'm not used to it, so don't expect much in the way of legibility. The surface freight finally came, so we're in the process of returning things we've borrowed, like the typer we were using. I wish this'd been among the things missing....

Anyway, thanks for Gemzine #17. The whole thing is full of commentable items, mainly that I disagree with your attitudes on several things, so I'll have trouble holding myself down ...

You seem to be quite an advocate of the status quo, to the exclusion of anything different -- you advocate a voting system that could certainly be improved and a constitution less clear than the one which would replace it. I know, in some respects I'm not satisfied with anything short of perfection, but when something better comes along, I think we should adopt it, if this doesn't entail too much work - say another constitution a year -- that's too much.

(GMC: Well, my point is that I am not convinced that just because something is different that automatically makes it better. In my opinion, the changes proposed are merely elaborations which do not create any genuine betterment, but merely accommodate a highly dubious series of changes.)

On the other hand, I agree with you that FAPA could get too large... That is a status quo which is better than any change, or at least better than the work involved to change. I mean the work & trouble involved trying to make the club smaller, and the superiority of unlimited memberships.

(GMC: Huh? "...unlimited memberships..."??? Are you SURE you know what you are saying? How in the name of Roscoe, The Eager Beaver, could we have an apa with 'unlimited memberships'? Such an apa is impossible on the face of it, from the sheer inability to figure how many copies to make for the OE each time!)

I find your letter column usually interesting, unlike the vast majority, but your habit of refuting before the argument is finished leaves the arguments in bad shape - and readers' arguments, while you certainly have no shortage, are still nice to have.

(GMC: "Everyone to his taste," said the farmer as he kissed the cow... I happen to like a dialogue-type of argument and rebuttal, so that is why I insert the refutation in the place where it belongs, instead of crowding it hodgepodge at the end, where it loses meaning. However, if you prefer to read the comments first, and the replies later -- there is nothing to stop you from doing it that way. That's why the comments are indented in parenthetical insertions.)

And in Geis's letter, too, regards your comments on advertising -- ever noticed how few people really think? I've met three or four people that I would say governed their actions by thought - and seen evidences of thinking, through letters or articles or some such - in only a few more. I'd say that almost no, if any, women think, and less than 10% of the men.

(GMO: Just you and Oppenheimer and Einstein, huh!.. Must get awfully lonely up there all by yourself among the 10%...)

Which brings us to the Saturday Evening Post - the Post does show occasional sparks of goodness, it is interesting, but as to any publication showing the Typical American's Way of Life, I'd say it was impossible, unless that is the avowed intention, worked at by a long (several years) series of articles. But I wouldn't want to read the finished product.

(GMO: On the other hand, I think I would be very interested in reading an account of that mythical creature, The Typical American, and his equally mythical "Way of Life"... There are innumerable kinds of Americans and innumerable "ways of life"; but the SATVEPOST reflects the type of American and the kind of way of life that I recognize. It also shows a very widespread cross-section of the various other kinds of "Americans" and gives a glimpse of the "way of life" according to the way they live it. As much as any magazine that I know of, at any rate. Which is all that I claimed for it.)

If you wanted to see a difference in news stories, you should compare the US news from the Civil & Military Gazette with the Pakistan Times - the Communistic (unopenly) paper. The Times also emphasizes the technological failures of the US next to glowing accounts of Sputnik, etc. I'll have to find an example to show you. They also like to quote British papers on completely irrelevant ideas, like editorials on an affair in Southern England which nothing was heard of here.

Regards social structures -- Pakistan has a third sort of class distinction, unlike the British title or the American money, but still along lines of birth. Or rather, not completely unlike US monetary distinctions, but only mostly unlike.

As I see it, there are four classes here, not counting Americans and English. There's the laborers, the servants, the professional, and the filthy rich type that lives in Gulberg colony (which is where nearly all the Americans live, by the way.) The professional group differs from the servants in that their fathers had enough money to teach them to write Urdu, possibly English. The whole system is based on the fact that those who are educated go places.

Take our cook, Sammy, for an example. We pay him about 60¢ a day, which is better than a lot of people in this country. He has a job, which also is unlike a good portion of the population. From his class, the servant, he is doing well.

Looked at beside educated people he is in bad shape. He can write his name in English, but that's the extent of his education in either Urdu or English. He's bright, and learns quickly - show him how to make something and he's got the recipe in his mind whenever he needs it. He could tell you how much he paid for potatoes last week. In the US he'd go places. But, without an education, he's making enough, and no more.

Anyway, I don't have anything else to say, as if I hadn't said enough, so I'll sign off.

Salaam,

/s/ Jim Caughran

Bill Meyers, 4301 Shawnee Circle, Chattanooga 11, Tennessee
January 30, 1958



Dear Gem:

Got GEMZINE 4:17 of course and should have sent some sort of comment long before now. I hate myself when I procrastinate like this; this letter is probably too late to make 4:18, but I'll send along some sort of comment, anyway.

I'd think it would be a wise move if you traded in both your 78 and 33-1/3 players for a 3-speed, or better yet, a 4-speed, as I hear that 16 rpm is a coming thing. (Tho I hope not...as soon as you buy a player suited to a new speed, they come out with another one.) However, 16 rpm, I believe, is only used on non-musical type records. How to speak a language, etc. -- mostly educational type recordings and other types that have nothing to do with music, like correspondence courses and How To Reduce In Ten Easy Lessons. But to get back to the subject -- if you've got money for the Real Ultimate, I'd advise the purchase of a Webcor 4-speed that is automatic on all speeds as well as mixed speeds. That is, you can drop on a 78, a 45, and a 33, leave the thing alone, and it will play all three without your touching it. Of course, I doubt if you'd be willing to forfeit the sum. I hear you could buy a couple of color TVs for what it would cost, or at least one and a half...

Really, tho, the change to 45 shouldn't affect you too badly. Now if everything in the future were to be recorded on 33 and you didn't have a 33 player like you don't have a 45 now, then it would pose a problem, as you just can't find an LP player now without the other two speeds along with it, which naturally means a much greater price.

(GMC: Well, I really am not so badly off as all that. The trouble isn't that I do not have a 45 speed player, both the automatic players have the 3 speeds, but what gripes me is having to remember to flip the needle each time I change a speed, and having to get up and walk over to the machine to switch the lever from one speed to another... I'm just lazy, that's all! It's the nuisance value that discourages me. Messing around changing needles and speeds and record cabinets from one size to another is more trouble than the music is worth.)

Luckily, I came by a second-hand player (LP only) of Columbia make, but then it's some 8 year old. (I got it for 10 comic books, too, but then that's another story.) At any rate, it plays remarkably well. Argh, I see I haven't attempted to make my original point when starting the paragraph. Which is that 45 players (1 speed automatics) are relatively quite cheap. I have one of the highest quality possible (no speaker, but then one isn't really necessary if you have a radio or teevee with a plug-in; all clock-radios have them) and RCA Victor automatic, and it just ran \$18.

And finally, you should be glad not to have to look for 78's now. Besides being incredibly hard to find the piece you want on a 78 record, they're so huge, breakable, and susceptible to surface noise that they're not worth the bother. This is especially true with classics on 78. Hearing millions of tiny little cracks, pops, and scratches in a supposedly soft melodious piece is sheer torture. Ooog, you can't imagine how nauseating...terrible, terrible.

(GMC: You are sooo right! That's why what classics I have are all on long play. The only trouble is, my LP's are also full of snap, crackle & pops...)

Your last comment -- "The mercenary old goats!" -- seems to be proving true alos, Gem. Record prices in the next few weeks are going up. LP \$4 albums have been raised to \$5. I don't know about the regular .89 pop records but they'll probably go up to \$1.29 at the least. I'd comment a little more but I'm not feeling very prolific tonight. Be sure and send 4:18 now....

Calloy, Callay, /s/ Bill (Meyers)

Robert (Buck) Coulson, 105 Stitt, Wabash, Ind.
March 5, 1958.

Dear Gem,

Right in the middle of running YANDRO, but I want to make a few comments while GEMZINE is fresh. I've learned to do this -- if I wait a few days to comment, I never can find the items I want to talk about.

As to people not taking offense at your spoken words, I should think the answer would be obvious.. "Smile when you say that, Podnuh!" may be a Western cliché, but there is some fact in it, too. And you simply can't smile in a letter... with the printed word, you either have to restrict your humor or take the chance that some literal-minded reader will misunderstand you. Humor isn't all, either -- without the benefit of facial expression, and the accompanying tone of voice, it's hard to tell whether the individual is being mildly amused, bitterly sarcastic, or out-and-out enraged.

(GMC: A good point... But how to convey the equivalent of a smile? The reader supplies his own emotional content to what he reads. What is it that causes the reader to interpret the words as conveying the emotions of mild amusement, bitter sarcasm, or out-and-out rage? What makes one reader chuckle over a mild jest, while another jumps up in anger at what he construes as a biting insult? Is there any way that I can tap in on that emotional-response mechanism by words?)

"As a matter of fact, I think your own literal-mindedness has betrayed you at least once. When 3 or 4 writers insist that a Willis remark is a joke; when Willis insists that it's a joke; and when it's a remark that I read at the time and don't even remember (it wasn't a very good joke, maybe) -- then I'm inclined to believe that the remark in question was a joke, and that if you had heard it from the Willis lips instead of seeing it in print, you'd have considered it a joke too; even though you might have thought it in poor taste, it wouldn't have outraged you as much as it did.

(GMC: "All's fair in love and war," you know, and you must admit WAW is a very cautious person in exposing himself to my fire... Sure, I recognized that this was undoubtedly intended as a joke, but fortunately for me, WAW was careless in his wording so that what could have been a humorous comment about the overuse of SNOG IN THE FOG, actually turned out to be a rather nasty remark -- coming as it did from a person who was presumably speaking from observation. After all, WAW is one of the few UK fen who has actually attended a US-type Con, and therefore is in a position to speak with authority. If I chose to consider this careless phraseology as a "Freudian slip" for purposes of feud-ammunition... well, why not? He did say it -- and that could have been a reason for the wording.)

If you like old-time jazz (I'll be damned if I'll capitalize the word), have you heard any of the recordings of Turk Murphy, Bob Scobey and His Frisco Band, or The Firehouse Five Plus Two? They're supposed to be the three top "dixieland" outfits, and I must say that I find them more palatable than modern jazz -- I even went so far as to buy a couple of Firehouse Five records, though I wouldn't want very many. Of course, they don't sound like Ben Bernie or Isham Jones (not being an expert on what eras overlapped which in pop music, I'm not sure what dance bands, etc. you're referring to -- I know you probably mentioned it some time or other but I'm too lazy to look it up) -- but they sound more like them than they do like Stan Kenton or Thelonious Monk. ...And yes, we have records by Ben Bernie, Isham Jones, and Stan Kenton, so I have a vague idea of what I'm talking about.

(GMC: Bob, to me trying to listen to jazz from a phonograph record, is like trying to kiss a photograph. Sure, a snapshot is better than nothing when you feel nostalgic or lonely for someone. It is possible to use a snapshot as a focal point for memories. But that is all it ever can be... If you have never seen a person, it is certainly better to have a good photograph to go by, than to try and imagine what they look like merely from guesswork. But I can see that you, too, missed the point of what I was trying to say about jazz... The stuff you get now-a-days, this so-called "cool" jazz, is no more like the real stuff used to be, than a Picasso Oil Painting is like the living model... You could never guess what her lips would feel like in a kiss, just from looking at the monstrosity Picasso imagined. You might get a better idea if you had a photograph, showing her as she actually was. But neither would be anything at all in comparison with a nice, warm buss from the gal herself! And that is the point that present-day aficionados seem to miss altogether -- in the decade of the 'twenties, Jazz was a living thing... It was not a matter of a few "name bands" performing via mechanical reproduction; incredible though it now seems to you, it was live bands, live music from living performers actually present in the flesh -- and the Jazz they played was the authentic, spontaneous expression of a movement that had engulfed and swallowed up the entire era... Joe Doaks Little Combo at the Punkin Corners Grange House played with the same wild abandon that wailed and moaned in the cabarets of New York*; it wasn't the individual performer, or the musical style that made Jazz what it was... It was a social phenomenon as distinct and as ubiquitous as the peculiar dance crazes of the Middle Ages. Frankly, I must admit that the spectacle of Jazz Enthusiasts sitting with ear glued to the Hi-Fi sets, moaning with joy over the technical aspects of the recorded music, makes me think of a bunch of Pygmaliens caressing a statue. I just can't believe they really mean it... it sounds too much like affectation to me.) ((*although probably not so well))

The trouble with FAPA arguments is that you people are all trying to convince each other..... what kind of argument is that? Just leads to bad feelings and name-calling. What has happened to the good old-fashioned argument where neither party knows or cares what he's arguing about? Nowadays people still don't know, but by George they care and aren't friendly-like anymore. People are too serious -- Hedonists of the world, arise!

Yours,

/s/ Buck (Coulson)

PS: Mr. Carr has my sincere envy... Even if he didn't get a deer, he did get a Model 88 Winchester. I have to get by with \$15 Springfields. And I haven't even shot it yet. The only rifles I've taken deer hunting are a .30-.40 Krag sporter and a Model 1886 Winchester .38-56. (And I never got to use them.) Some people have all the luck....(mumble, mumble, mumble).

Yours, again,

/s/ Buck

(GMC: Mr. Carr says, "Well, the .30-.40 Krag is a good gun.... But I admit it WAS a consolation just to carry the Model 88, even if I didn't get anything with it...")

Larry S. Bourne, 2436 $\frac{1}{2}$ Portland St., Eugene, Oregon. March 4, 1958

Dear Gem,

A small note of explanation here. I got Gemzine & Monsoon and thank you very much for the honor only I must clear up a statement you made. You mentioned in Monsoon that: "...he isn't up to the point where he'd dare edit the former editor of PSYCHOTIC..." I didn't edit Geis's work because I agreed with him. If I hadn't agreed with him I would probably have run it anyway just to provide some sort of controversy. If I felt that it was of little use I would have cut. I have the guts to do anything I please, the P.O. and the fannish wrath to the contrary. Geis is very good friend and wouldn't mind if I did cut his stuff.

(GMC: OK, Larry, I'll grant that maybe you have the guts -- but have you the discrimination to decide that you disagree with Geis, or that his material is not suitable? I'll concede the point when I discover that you actually told Geis the material which in his opinion was suitable for publication, was not suitable in yours....)

But you must remember that the Bradbury story in Sat Eve Post was pretty lousy. The style was there but the plot was nothing....

(GMC: Oh? Just which one of the Bradbury stories the SATEVEPOST has printed did you consider lousy? Was it by any chance, "The World The Children Made" (9/23/50) which was later anthologized as "The Veldt"?; or "The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms" (2/23/51) which probably brought him more money from movie rights than all the rest of his writings put together? or was it the Cecy story, "The April Witch" (4/5/52)? Possibly you objected to "They Know What They Wanted" (6/26/57) because it was not 'science fiction' or "Summer in the Air" (2/18/56)? Or was it "Goodby, Grandma" (5/25/57) that incurred your disapproval? Go on -- don't be bashful. Remember, you've got guts enough to say anything you please....)

.. It would have to be that way to get into the Post which is on the whole mediocre. They say very little in their stories above that of action - ie: the love story, the western story, the detective story, and occasional thud & blunder science fiction. There is no meaning in the stories above that of trite situation.

(GMC: Well, since you seem to be so familiar with the editorial policy of the SATEVEPOST, perhaps you can explain something to me. How is it that when the Reporter is panned, fans immediately pop up from all corners of fandom to defend it on the grounds that it "printed a Ray Bradbury story", but the SATEVEPOST can print a half dozen Ray Bradbury stories and nobody even notices?)

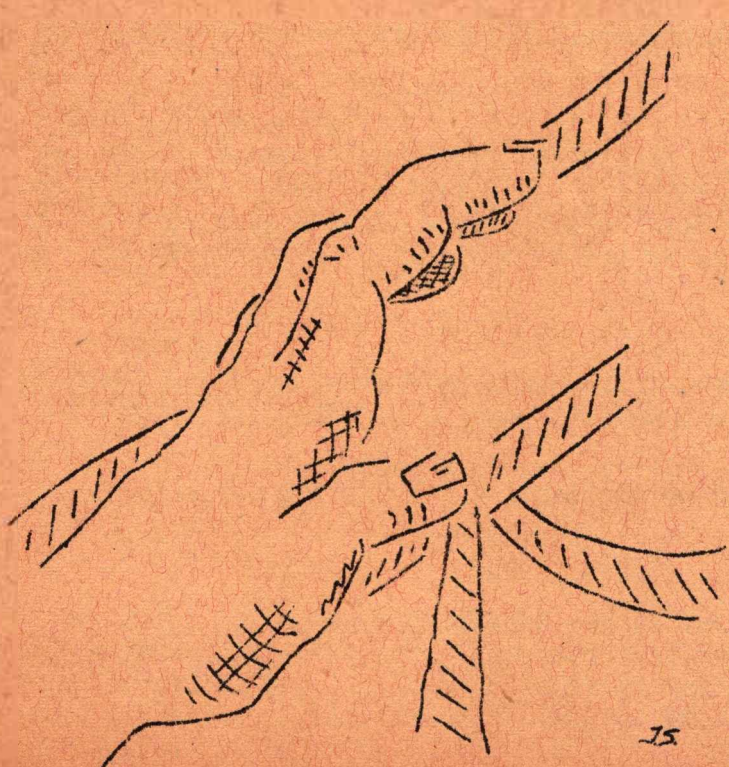
No, I wouldn't agree that the SATEVEPOST is a reflection of the United States. No large circulation magazine is. Unless you take into account that it reflects the tastes of a large number of the American people. A pretty excreable (sic) taste I might say.

(GMC: Well, everybody can't be expected to have as good taste as the readers of MAD and CONFIDENTIAL and THE REPORTER....)

You may be getting these things (postcards) off and on for a long time.

Sine cera,
/s/ Lars (Bourne)

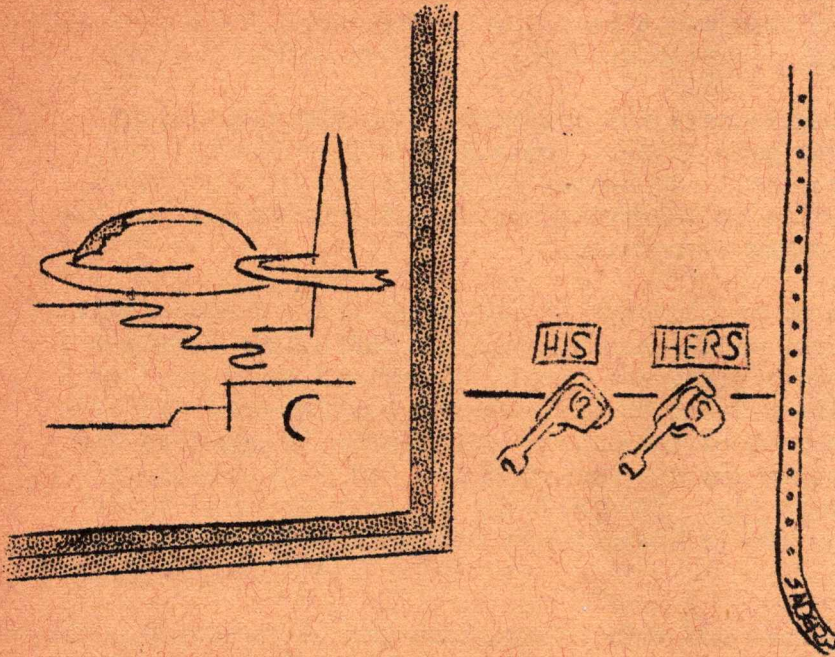
(GMC: I surely have to give Larry credit -- it isn't every fan that has the guts to proclaim himself so insistently "100% virgin-pure-un-adulterated" in every letter.)



Richard Geis, 1525 N.E. Ainsworth, Portland 11, Oregon.
March 5, 1958

Dear GEM:

Well, wouldn't you know it, the pearls or egoboo you cast before me have come forth to bear fruit...or something. It pleased me no end to see the harsh words you have for me in reviewing BRILLIG #10. I have easily read them a dozen times. All that egoboo implied in "...although Bourne is rapidly climbing the ladder of fannish fame, he isn't up to the point where he'd dare edit the former editor of PSYCHOTIC..." Ah, sweet bliss.



But it distresses me to see that you are still making moral judgements on certain subjects I chose to discuss or comment upon. Or, perhaps, it isn't that you object to the subject, but rather the comment on the subject. What is your opinion on the matter? Should men voyage deep into space for months and years without some provision for sexual activity? Which do you prefer men indulge in: bestiality, heterosexuality, or homosexuality? And, please, no categorical imperatives: be pragmatic about it, huh? Men will be men you know. They are in prisons, ships, and armies. You may deplore glands, but us poor males have got to live with them.

(GMC: What's my opinion? My opinion is set unlike yours...ie, that "Men will be men" - rather than animals. So you've got glands...pish, tush! On this two-sex planet, who hasn't? Men have got glands -- so have women. So have dogs, cats, squirrels, rats, stallions, mares, and bitches in heat... So what? Although, undoubtedly, you would never agree with the conclusion, I thought that C. S. Lewis said just about everything that needed to be said on this subject in his story "Ministering Angels" in the Jan. 1958, MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION. For the benefit of those of you who never read the stuff, I quote:

"Ye maun recall," said Ferguson, "they're dealing with an absolutely new situation."

"Oh, new be damned! How does it differ from men on whalers, or even on windjammers in the old days? Or on the North West Frontier? It's about as new as people being hungry when food was short."

"Eh, mon, but ye're forgettin' the new light of modern psychology."....

"Well, if it comes to that, do they suppose men would volunteer for a job like this unless they could, or thought they could, or wanted to try if they could, do without women?"

"Then there's the new ethics, forbye."

"Oh, stow it, you old rascal. What is new there either? Who ever tried to live clean except a minority who had a religion or were in love? They'll try it still on Mars, as they did on Earth." End of quote.)

I don't believe I read the Willis comment which aroused you so, nor the joke in FLOT which you feel is anti-American. However, even so, it appears that you are rather harsh on him and a bit too angry about his supposed slur on the fair name of American

fandom. And, even if he did say and intend all you imply, it still wouldn't be as bad, in my view, as the continual use of personalities in your arguments. I realize that to you an argument is an argument and that means no holds barred, sort of like "total war" in communication, but my personal reaction is dislike of such unfair tactics.

It simply does not PROVE anything to say, for instance, when discussing sex: "Well, you are too young to know about such things...wait till you're older, then you'll see I'm right." It may be true that the person IS holding an opinion which will change with experience, but that is an assertion, not proof, not facts, not logic, and has no application to the point under discussion.

(GMC: What do you mean it "has no application to the point under discussion"! The fact of maturation is a physical phenomenon which is definitely germane to any subject in which it plays a part. No amount of "proof" or "facts" or "logic" will be able to convince a ten-year-old that his sixteen-year-old brother regards girls differently than he does... He may be able to see that his older brother actually does prefer the company of girls, but it's a foolish waste of words to try and explain why. So what? So the only thing to do in a case like that is to tell the kid to beat it and when he's older he'll know why without asking....)

It is a patronizing slap in the face and only antagonizes the other person. Where's the percentage in that? Get the other fellow mad, get his ego bruised, and he'll defend that opinion of his with everything he's got to the dying breath. This is the major mistake you make, Gertrude: you seem more interested in smashing and bashing with your opinions than in trying to spread your opinions.

(GMC: Good observation! I think you are probably the first person who has noticed that I am less interested in persuading others to adopt my opinions, than I am in making them analyze and defend their own. If a cherished belief is true, nothing can shake it: if it is NOT true, it does not deserve to be cherished. Why be afraid to have your opinions attacked? If they are based on your own reasoning and observation, you can easily defend them -- if they are merely second-hand opinions you have accepted without question from someone else, then it is time you took them apart and examined them closely. Do you actually WANT to keep on clinging to a prejudice or believing in a fallacy?)

I have a feeling that you instinctively resist the discipline of logic because if you started to use it you'd find many of your cherished opinions and attitudes crumbling away.

(GMC: J.C. Campbell's editorials on logic express my attitude far more clearly than I could ever express it. "Logic," he said, in effect, "is an empty vessel." You put a set of facts into it, and you can carry them quite a distance. But no matter how far you carry them, unless the facts you put into the vessel at the beginning were true, the conclusion you finally reach will not be true. In short, Logic is no guarantee of anything. It is merely a convenient tool. But I have discovered (as J.C. Campbell also mentioned) that many people seem to be hypnotized by the idea of "Logic" -- and they seem to think that the progression of ideas is in itself something of value. I do not think it is. I consider the typical 'logic' as mere word-spinning; a verbal composition about as useful as a dew-hung spiderweb sparkling in the sunshine. Something which is undoubtedly intricate and beautifully done, but of little value to anyone except the person who enjoyed himself doing it. All that I am interested in is the truth or falsity of the idea involved. Furthermore, I'm only interested in the ideas insofar as they grant me a closer look at the person who is saying them... In the last analysis, it is the speaker I am interested in, not the speech per se.)

Re Voltaire and your discussion of a person's "right" to do things: in my view it's all a matter of power. If you, as a person or a group, are powerful enough you can do what you like. If not, then you are subject to "laws" which others impose on you. You may argue that this is WRONG. Ideally, perhaps, it is. But I have learned to take a dim view of ideals when dealing with the real world. Is it wrong to suffer a dictatorship in Cuba when we could do something about it? And at the same time to fight a dictatorship in China when we can't do anything about it? Ideally the American government is hypocritical. But this type of thinking, however appealing, that our government should act on the ideals it talks about, is unrealistic and for the clods who don't or can't think. We suffer a dictatorship in Cuba because there is a lot of American money in Cuba and the owners of that money are powerful and afraid that their money and possessions in Cuba would not be safe if a democratic government came to power and perhaps nationalized and taxed. We fight China and Russia, of course, because they threaten to take away what we have and want. If they accumulate enough power and apply it correctly, and if we don't keep equal to them at least, and apply our power incorrectly, then they will take what we want. Simple. But who is right? Who wrong? Well, who was right and wrong when Greece and Persia fought? Was Greece right because she won? Do you believe in a manifest destiny, Gertrude? It's all a fascinating question which men have been studying and answering for centuries, ...eons.

SINcerely /s/ Dick

the Geis

(GMC: I'm afraid I don't get what you mean by a "manifest destiny" in this instance. But here, again, is another example of the basic similarity of our mental attitudes. Because I, like you, have the faintly cynical thought that "justice" is very often on the side of the most troops... Not that "Wrong" is not just as "Wrong", but that the cost of "righting" this "wrong" may constitute an even greater "wrong" than ignoring it. As I said several mailings ago, it is impossible to postulate a concept of "right" and "wrong" without having some standard of values to which to relate them.)

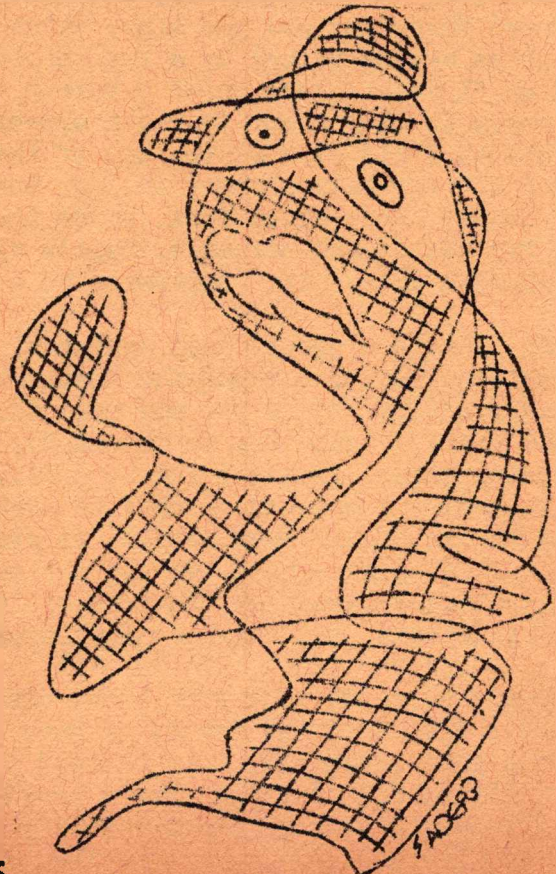
John Hitchcock, 300 E. University Pkwy.
Baltimore 18, Md. March 7, 1958.

Dear Gem:

Thanks for Gemzine 4:18 et al., which I got today. Sorry I haven't replied to Gemzs more often: bear in mind that I, too, do appreciate your sending your Fapazine out to all the waiting-listers. It certainly peeps up our otherwise dull lives!... Comment on Gemzine proper (very) follows:

I. The Willis Case; or, Carr Feud #8623-A.

I'm commenting on this first because you obviously consider it the most important thing in the issue. Those of us who feel we owe a great deal, albeit it intangible, to Walt Willis, as I do, naturally tend to side with him on any issue. If it weren't for Walt, I'd probably have been in Ransom as long as John Fletcher (don't remember him? That's my point exactly). As far as I'm concerned, he's proved himself more than a fair-weather friend (in fact, almost a foul-weather friend: I can't think of any time I wrote him that something wasn't



going wrong). So you can understand my personal position. Therefore, I prefer to view this little feud more objectively than usual...for me.

First, I'm not too well up on the backgrounding of the affair. I am familiar with your Sat-Eve-Post/Reporter/True-View-U.S.A. troubles, and I presume, from what I can piece together here, that in that Floy (which I don't keep on file, like all the rest of my belongings) WAW pointed up the overuse of the Snog in the Fog/Blog/whatnog in '57 slogan Stateside, commenting "Americans must be sex-starved." I think I dimly remember reading it in Floy...it must be almost a year ago now. This comment seems to have injured your sensibilities. The thing I'm most familiar with here is the TAFF business...remember I was in the thick of that, with both Eney and Madle in Washington, knowing them both as friends, and so on. So much for my qualifications.

In WAW's letter dated Xmas '57 the bit on psychology (2nd para) is logically sound--except that Walt uses 'identical', implies 'always'-- and uncomfortably applicable. In other words, I'm afraid you pretty well deserved it. He links you psychologically with G. Wetzel; this is also uncomfortably sound analogy. Knowing G. Wetzel as I do, I would never write a letter like the next one (12 Jan)..but I'm getting ahead of myself.

Numbered para. 1: Walt's right. You were pretty hasty, I think, to take any slighting remark about Americans -- no matter how slight -- seriously. Most fans are less preoccupied with the United States -- less overweeningly nationalistic -- and take such little remarks in the proper, light, vein. However, Walt should realize that you weren't "scraping the barrel for that one." To people who are overly touchy about their state or nationality, such remarks stand out with red and orange lights flashing around them. Walt should have seen what had happened--something thoroly natural considering the psychology involved. The only way I stayed a "friend" of Wetzel's as long as I managed to, was by becoming adept at avoiding trigger-phrases, phrases most fans drop all the time, which set off the paranoid mechanism. Luckily, you're not as bad as Wetzel by a long shot! We like having you around. Walt should have had an "I should have know" reaction when you first took objection to those half-a-dozen words in Floy about American sex-starvation. Also, I can't hold you quite so responsible as I did even at the top of this para...sex-starvation is primarily a Protestant and Germanic phenomenon, not Roman Catholic. Being a member of the Roman Church, you may not realize that, since the fundamental cultural influence in America has been Protestant and Germanic, Walt's view, if you must take him seriously, was pretty accurate after all. Reference to a factual situation doesn't constitute slander.

(GMC: That's a pretty good analysis, John, but I'm afraid I have to admit Walt's complaint that I scraped the bottom of the barrel on that one was true. Most fans read the remark the way you did, ie, they took the meaning Walt intended (and which I could see he intended), but it was such an irresistably tempting opening that I couldn't let it pass... Instead of taking what everyone assumed Walt meant, I pounced on what he actually did say -- and you must admit the result was highly successful! It stung just about everybody who read it into some kind of comment -- and it obviously annoyed WAW much more to be caught in a careless phraseology, than it did to be accused of bad faith, lack of good-sportsmanship, and being a poor loser!)

Numbered para. 2: You seem to be most highly agitated over this aspect of the feud. Let's dive into the facts. I have it from what I consider unimpeachably reliable sources (and unnamable, too; no need to drag anyone else into this mess) that Stu Hoffman built up his unusually large pre-Midwestcon total of votes by traveling from club to club and financing the signatures of the members on ballots for himself. There's nothing, either in the spirit or the letter of the law, to prevent this (something Willis, as you pointed out, foresaw). It was not unethical, but it came within an ace

There are many people in FAPA like this. Myself included. But I'm always, (I like to think) open to argument. But with me as with everyone else, I don't respond to insults.

(GMC: (Giggle) You respond all right -- and how! But what you really mean is that you do not respond with an open mind, ready and willing to believe whatever I tell you. But that's the point. I'm not trying to persuade you to discard one plausible argument and accept another merely because you like me. I'm putting up harsh arguments to smash down those prefabricated opinions you complacently suppose to be your own; to disturb your smug, unthinking status-quo, and make you stand up and fight for your beliefs. In the course of doing so you are much more likely to discover just exactly what those beliefs ARE than you would be if you merely played conjecturing games about them...)

Now, if you won't get mad, I'll make a comment about this Willis affair: I have the impression that you are in this dispute not because Willis impuned the honesty of Americans or made a crack in PLOY or for any of the reasons you give. I have a hunch it all springs from Willis liking the Reporter magazine and saying it gave a good picture of America. The Reporter magazine is liberal. You dislike liberals. Willis is therefore a liberal. Worse, he is a well-liked liberal. He is a fannish GHOD no less. The thought of a liberal fannish GHOD, with all the fannish power and influence it implies...this, I feel...was too much for your cherished views. So... out comes the subconscious command: "GET WILLIS!"

How do you like that brilliant bit of psychiatric analysis, eh? Pretty good, eh?

(GMC: Willis thinks I jumped him because I am full of hate and viciousness, you think it is because I am a 'red-baiter', Hitchcock (see elsewhere in E&E) finds still another reason for it... all very enlightening in their own way as evidence of the way the owners' minds run. You boys tend to see in me the motivations which would have activated you in a similar situation...not that you, Richard, would be likely to be a red-baiter, but apparently you would be likely to take unconscious revenge via rationalization, ie, the sort of subconscious rationalization that causes a boss, for instance, to think up reasons why he should turn down a promotion for the gal that snubbed his advances... On the surface, he'd be shocked at such a suggestion, but just the same, that gal won't get a raise!)

What? -- You might at least wait till I take cover before shooting.

(GMC: However, as a result of your "brilliant bit of psychiatric analysis" I did a little 'psychiatric analysis' of my own. Naturally, my subconscious motivations are as far beyond my conscious understanding of them, as anybody else's are... If I knew why I do the things I do, the motivations would no longer be "sub-conscious", they would be "conscious". But it is possible, within limits, to do a little delving and I think I picked up a couple of clues to my behavior in this matter by the simple expedient of figuring out how I would have interpreted this behavior if I saw it in somebody else. It was kind of fun, too. (But if you think I am going to tell YOU what I found out, you can guess again! A gal is entitled to her own little secrets in matters like this!) I can tell you this much, though. This business of delving in the subconscious is not too difficult to do. I do not know how others feel about it, but I find that just setting up a 'stream-of-consciousness, free-association' train of thought when I am half-awake, half-doing, will sometimes bring surprising results. As I say, I do not know how it feels to others, but with me I find that when I do uncover an unconscious motivation it feels somewhat like a bubble bursting -- one of those slow, fat bubbles that roll up and burst with a "Plop"--- and suddenly out of the semi-conscious stream of images and sensations, there is a wide-awake awareness of something that I had not realized before. Some-

times,
in the course of an argument, some comment will have the same effect (without, however, the bursting-bubble effect) and then I am pretty sure that it was a valid point... But so far, neither you nor Willis has guessed anywhere near close -- at least as far as I can tell.)

Ah, I think we'll have some donnybrooks when I get into FAPA again. Just think, I'm #6 now. Another six months maybe....

I will agree with you 100% that Bob Leman is top drawer BNF material. And, this may shock you, I agree that today's liberals are "statists" in that they want more and more federal centralized government. But inexorably, they HAVE to be for central control in this modern world. They feel that only a strong central government can control the increasingly centralized business interests. They feel that a strong President, elected and responsible to the people, is the only hope the small people have. It is, in their eyes, a balance of power that must be maintained: the democratic power of the citizens against the power of the huge corporations. And, too, they feel that a decentralized government could not cope with the international situations that affect our nation's interests. And our interests, due to tremendous industrialization and its consequent dependence on foreign materials, now extend all over the world. Then, too, there is the theory that our "empire" must expand, or our western civilization will collapse, and that the expansion is organic, that it is not a conscious thing. In any case the spectacle is interesting as hell.

(GMC: And about as inviting, too. A tenuous little thought occurred to me the other day when I was watching a TV tornado. The Red Cross is actually taking more of a Government function in its disaster program, than the Government is. With Cities maintaining their Police functions, and County and State maintaining their law enforcement agencies, actually the Federal Government is not really doing anything for the citizens that is not a duplication of some sort. Except for the Armed services, we could dispense with the whole kit and caboodle and let the Red Cross take over any function that the Police Department can't handle.)

Oh, yes, about that business that FAPA would be hostile to a Prohibitionist, but not to an alcoholic: the mistake you make, I think, is that the two are not the same. An alcoholic does not advocate people drink nothing but alcoholic beverages. You might argue that a Prohibitionist is the victim of a disease like the alcoholic, and as such is equally emotionally disturbed, but somehow, I don't think you would. In FAPA the members would object to the Prohibitionist (I agree) as intolerant for advocating total abstinence from alcohol. They would argue the validity of his views. But what does an alcoholic advocate? When he's sober he'd probably agree with the Prohibitionist! And would an alcoholic be likely to discuss his alcoholism in FAPA? A personal tragedy like that is usually kept secret. Or if not kept secret, I imagine the alcoholic would tell FAPA members to please don't drink if they can't handle it.

(GMC: There! What did I tell you? (Giggle) Even while expostulating how wrong I am, your own words bear out how very right I guessed it! Notice one thing in your above paragraph: You have entered into and comprehended the feelings and attitudes that might impell the alcoholic -- ie, the person with less restrictive taboos than yours -- but you exhibit a complete inability to enter into and comprehend the probable attitudes and values that would motivate a teetotaler. In short, you really are not flexible enough in imagination or perception to place yourself in the strongly idealistic, rigidly restrictive frame-of-reference the teetotaler might be expected to hold, although you can slide into the looser frame-of-reference of the alcoholic, even to the point of exhibiting compassion for him. Notice this, too. So complete is this mental block on your part, that you are apparently unable to see any difference at all between the concepts of "Total Abstinence" (which is the meaning of "teetotaler") and "Prohibitionist". See what I mean? Think about it -- you'll get it... but in case you don't, here's the point: A teetotaler abstains personally from idealism; the Prohibitionist wants others to abstain for social or economic reasons. But you cannot comprehend either line of reasoning -- can you?)

Well, I think I've said about everything I can think of. To conclude: my reaction to this feud. The above may suggest one or several ways out of the polemics... as well as expressing my own opinions for what they're worth. I, however, am delighted to see the fight start. This is going to be one of the best feuds in fandom for a long time. I'm glad you finally got WAW good and mad. He's been far too passively well-meaning, well-doing...he's been in danger of vegetating permanently, I think! Vegetating just as a frightening hunk of fandom is doing right now. If you ignore the many ways out, back to understanding, and pitch battle, it'll be the fight of the decade. More power to both of you. You can reawaken -- hell, bring back to life -- a heap of half-dead fans. Maybe even me.

II. Unasked Opinion.

Andy Young comments: Russia: I don't think you understand the background and nature of the Sovetskovo Soyuz. You say "in the USSR it is an outright subjugation of free people against their will and contrary to custom." This is the way it looks to an American, but not to a Russian. The USSR government does not subject the people: I'm getting ahead of myself again. First, there is entirely NO tradition of independence, democracy, etc. in Russia. Slavery in Russia is as ageless as the nation itself. (I'm amused at your correcting Andy by saying "Russia is not a young nation only 40 years old," and then pulling the same mistake a dozen lines below by assuming that subjugation was only 40 years old.) The Russians had it much worse under the Tsari than they do under the Tsentralny Komitet. So the Kommunisticheskaya Partiya actually loosened the animal-like slavery of the Russian serfs. The operations of the Russian government today, then, are neither (1) subjugation of free people (but rather letting up a bit on agelessly enslaved people) nor (2) against their will (because they're quite happy to have things better than ever -- not knowing anything about the situation outside their own country) nor (3) contrary to custom (but rather following a 1000-year-old tradition, much much longer than the brief, almost flash-in-the-pan tradition of democracy). Now, if the Russians took over the United States, that's what it would amount to, (1) outright subjugation of free people (2) against their will and (3) contrary to custom. But you misunderstand Russia itself completely. The tovarisci never had it so good.

(GMC: John, in this case it is YOU who 'misunderstand'... If you still have that GZ, read it again and you will see that it states quite clearly that both Andy and I were talking about the use of slaves, ie, slave labor. I stated there is a difference between the American use of a recognized commodity such as the negro slaves purchased from slave-traders doing business out of Africa, and the "outright subjugation of a free people" such as the trainloads of German scientists, or the thousands of Hungarians and Poles and Checks who were shipped to the Siberian mines for forced labor. Even by your own definition, what happened in Hungary and Poland and Checkoslovakia IS "outright subjugation" and the use of these people as forced laborers IS "slavery". As to the Russian people -- I referred to them in their new status as having a new system of Government super-imposed on their ageless cultural patterns in much the same way as old roots with a new top grafted on... But how is it that you are on such familiar speaking terms with Russian terminology? Are you expecting the US to be taken over?)

This is the keystone to your other rather arch comments on the 2 AYoungzines, so I don't have to go into the rest of it, about U.S./C.S.A. slaves as "...chattel" and so on.

(GMC: I'm afraid I don't follow this... In the United States of the early 1800s that Andy spoke of, slaves WERE regarded as "chattel" and sold like sheep or cows or horses. I doubt that the slave labor in Russia is bought and sold and I did not say that it is -- but they are slaves in every sense of the word in spite of that.)

Dimensions 16 (what number? 3? 4?): I agree with you (surprised?) about cats. One certainly does get the impression that they'd have a helluva lot to communicate if they could develop a language. Sort of science-fictional, isn't it? Reminiscent of Wild Talent or Children of the Aton. I've lived with cats all but the first 3 years of my life, and I regard them as just barely a lower order of life from the humans. Apparently, the main difference is that they have no self-concept (other than realizing their bodies are units; even then, they play with their tails). Personality characteristics and idiosyncrasies are ALL there. Some cats I know would make great fen. BNFs even.

(GMC: I wonder if I grasp what you mean by "no self-concept".... I am under the impression that the self-concept is tied in with the "me / mine vs you / yours" relationship which children usually acquire about the 3rd or 4th year. But cats definitely DO understand this concept, and become exceedingly indignant if anyone **trespasses** on their property...particularly other cats!)

Cavage: The "loyal liberals (didn't) admit their loyalty to the U.S. and expose their fellows who were known to them to be disloyal" because they weren't so damn touchy about it as you and most (forgive the term) rightwingers are. Education, especially a college education, erases a good deal of the nationalism in a person -- makes such things seem provincial rather than patriotic. When you realize how small you, your locality, your culture are in the history of the world, if not the universe, you stop paying so much attention to loyalty to particular political structures (especially when you see all the faults in them -- and it's my opinion that the U.S. isn't even the least of the evils, as many intellectuals are forced to admit..

(GMC: Let's see.. was it Patrick Henry who risked his neck for "My country, right or wrong, my country...?")

I consider, from what little I know, that the U.K. is a bit more democratic and politically superior to the U.S. Just my opinion, which may be reversed without notice). You become ***COSMOPOLITAN***. Literally. As the song saith: How are you going to keep them down on the farm when they've seen...?

(GMC: That's a highly interesting comment, John. It makes me seriously wonder where "education" leaves off and "brain-washing" begins... Loyalty has been considered a life-or-death virtue since the beginning of human history. Loyalty to kin, or clan, or nation -- but, in any event, loyalty to the group and to the safety of the group. It is a human ethical concept which has sublimated the instinct of self-defense to the defense of the group, and as far back as human history can trace, this concept of loyalty has been considered well worth dying for. But you say that "Education, especially a college education" de-valuates this concept of loyalty to the point where it is not even worth telling the truth for. I wonder if the Russian colleges also regard loyalty as 'provincial'...)

III. Linguistic Interlude.

Note to Jean Young: Your french is slipping, girl. "--Aha, dit-il," not "--Aha, il dit..." Remember now?

IV. TAFF and Mr. Egd.

Fandom as such has no definable boundaries. This has been proven by the repeated attempts by fans to define them, themselves, "trufen," and the like. It simply can't be done. Historically fandom springs from science fiction readership forming clubs and corresponding. What evolved -- a series of nuclei of interest and activity within

of ruining TAFF's existence. Now: It soon became known that there'd been vote-buying on our side. Since Bob Madle had won the election, the natural reaction for the British was that he had done the vote-buying. The British fans involved in starting the rumor also misunderstood the ethics of TAFF -- there is no provision in TAFF ethics for vote-buying or against it. The British were principally for Enzy, and thought that Enzy was as popular in America as he is in Britain. They thought that Madle had skulldug Enzy--overlooking the occupant of second place. This is the perfectly natural, normal human thing to do. You'd have done the same in their shoes, I bet. As Walt says, the little storm has blown over. Everything (and everybody) turned out all right. Forget about it.

(GMC: John, the entire purpose and meaning of this "feud" is to do just the very opposite of "forget it"... There has been entirely too much of this whispered back-biting going on by "unnamable" but "unimpeachably reliable sources". "It was not unethical" you say in speaking of Stu Hoffman's campaign methods. But, nevertheless, somebody spread the nasty rumor that it WAS unethical, and although you say that the British attitude was the "perfectly natural, normal, human thing to do", I happen to disagree. I see nothing normal, natural, or human about this kind of whispering campaign. An innocent person was judged guilty of unethical practices and publicly accused of something he did not do. True, it is easy to see how such a thing could come about -- but it still does not exonerate the people who jumped at this false and unkind conclusion without giving the man the benefit of the doubt until they could ascertain the facts. Personally, it is my intention to drag these unsavory details out into the limelight until every nasty little whisper has been chased down and exposed for the malicious lie that it was. Furthermore, I think it is time that we stopped glossing over these differences in understanding and come to a basis of open agreement about TAFF so that both sides shall understand what the score is. I don't know who it was that first spread these rumors of "vote-buying", nor what the purpose was in stirring up this agitation and dismay among the British. I think it is time that whoever did it should step up and explain themselves. And I still think WAW owes Madle an apology for jumping to the conclusion he did, and making wisecracks about it without waiting to find out the truth!)

Numbered para. 3: Unusual as it may seem, Walt seems to know exactly what he did better than many other people. He (a) resigned from Taff and (b) expressed an opinion or two about it. Action (b) because of (a), can in no wise have official influence. All the influence it can have is personal--that is, because Walt said it....

(GMC: But that is exactly what I was talking about! Do you honestly mean to imply that merely because WAW went through the gesture of turning over formal leadership of TAFF to someone else, that automatically his opinions became no more important than that of neofan Joe Blow from Kokomo? Nonsense. WAW's action in stepping aside from leadership of TAFF so that he could be in a position to speak more freely about it, was identical with that of a Committee Chairman turning the Chair over to someone else in order that he might step down and be free to speak on an issue before the house. How naive can anyone get to assume that a person of WAW's stature could possibly "express an opinion like anyone else"? True, WAW let someone else spread the work around among a series of "TAFF heads" -- but it is foolish to assume that WAW's influence on TAFF ceased with his handling of the details.)

..Just as Bob Leman notes much anti-Americanism abroad stems from envy, perhaps you are unwittingly a little too envious of Walt's influence in fandom? There's a suggestion of it lurking around. (NB: This is also quite natural & normal in the course of human events. I'm amazed how people get so disturbed over such entirely normal happenings.) Perhaps because Walt's been known as a sort of Superghod for so long, anything he says sounds a little like an edict rather'n an opinion.

Onward, ever onward: First of all (Jan 12 letter now) I don't think you're a person "full of hate," although it certainly may look that way at times. Perhaps it's because you've never attacked me. More likely it's partly because Ted White was so impressed with you after the Midwestcon. Also, I do a good deal of vituperating on the typewriter, but I still consider myself a reasonably good-natured well-meaning fellow.

Now, Walt's arguing from a sort of unwritten rule that what you say in fannish discussions, unless you really throw all you've got into it, doesn't necessarily reflect on your character, but is confined strictly to an intellectual plane. Quite often a fan (e.g. Ted White) will argue a position opposite that he may really hold, just for the sake of argument. More often we find fans arguing about, or discussing, things they don't consider important enough to launch a minor crusade over...or even express their feelings. These are simply thoughts, interesting straws thrown up in a small breeze. Taking things very seriously when they're not meant to be, taking things personally when that isn't meant either -- that's not fair play according to these unwritten rules of the verbal (verbose) game. Maybe this is one of the things you've been looking for when you've asked "What makes GMC obnoxious?"

(GMC: Yes, I think it is... I've finally figured out that these charges of "getting personal" that are hurled at me with such indignation, refer to the fact that I am much more interested in using what a person says as an indication of what he really thinks than I am in the ideas he may be expressing... The simile occurs to me that I tend to regard the typical arguments advanced by fans somewhat as a teacher regards the answers turned in on an examination paper... It is not the information on the paper that is interesting, but rather it is an indication of how much the pupil knows about the subject. I suppose it is because I use a fan's words as a key to unlocking the hidden chambers of his personality where his ego is hiding, instead of merely taking them at face value and tossing them back again. But I am not particularly interested in the verbal pyrotechnics a fan is able to produce... I'm interested in the person himself. What's more, I intend to keep right on being interested in people... So they might as well get used to it.)

I can't say anything about the Reporter, because I've never read a copy. I have read the Saturday Evening Post, and I do not consider it a faithful account of American life. In the first place, the only locality of which it is really characteristic is the city of Philadelphia. (It is a Philadelphia magazine, not an American magazine, I might add.) Last summer, I stayed in Philly for a few days, for the first time in my life. It was then that I realized what I've said. The atmosphere -- I hate to talk in vague terms, especially when it didn't seem vague to me at all, but I have to -- of the Saturday Evening Post pervades the psychology of that city. The universe of the Post is the way Phillians like to think of themselves, and they act according to it. They seem to see their little world thru rockwell-colored glasses, too; they do not see Philly as a visitor sees it. Philadelphia is the only city I've seen beside Chi and NYC which is predominantly slum. The Philadelphia slum contains a good 75% of the inhabitants of the city... 1,500,000 people living in that abomination. The slum of Philadelphia is characterless: it isn't vicious, it isn't describable by any really forceful adjective. It was the most depressing environment I have ever seen...in Baltimore we have plenty of slums, but here there is a sort of integrity...Polish when coming out and scouring their marble steps almost everytime someone steps on them, till they're blindingly white: even if everything else in the house is a mess, it takes only one indication of pride in one's place to make even a slum livable. There is no indication of pride in the dirty, smelly, dingy, shabby streets of Philadelphia. That is the world of the Saturday Evening Post. I'm glad I'm a Baltimorean.

the fan population itself rather than outside (prozines) OTHER than clubs-- has never taken on clear-cut proportions. The only aspects of fandom you can define are the apas, which have constitutions, limited numbers of members, requirements, central organization. General fandom has none of these.

(GMC: I think you overlook the fact that apas are merely another type of fanclub. Practically every fanclub has these same characteristics in at least rudimentary form. Since apas are primarily concerned with the written word and depend on it for communication, these characteristics are more clearly defined in the apas than in the more loosely-integrated fanclubs. But even the poor Old Dying Monster, NFFF, has a definite membership, requirements, and central organization... True, there is no overall 'central organization' to which all these scattered fanclubs may turn -- but then, there is no such central organization for the apas, either. It is merely the accidental overlapping of memberships on the part of the bi-apas that gives this illusion.)

So it's easy to make mincemeat of any campaign to confine any activity to certain fans, because, outside of naming each one, you can't draw any lines. This mincemeat-making is what Don Ford has been doing. I disagree with his position, although his arguments are extremely strong, because of the nature of fandom itself. The only real argument I can offer is that TAFF, as far as I know, originated from Walt Willis' trip in 1952 to the Chicon. The idea for TAFF was spawned by fans who were at that time in the center of what we now call "trufandom" for want of any better words: that is, in the center of one of those nuclei I spoke of in the last paragraph. Thus the spirit of TAFF (the spirit of TAFF is the idea which originally conceived it and manifested itself in the actuality of the fund) is trufannish. The idea was that fandom should elect its most popular member each year and send him across the Atlantic as ambassador to the annual Convention. What the originators of TAFF conceived as fandom centered about the nucleus they inhabited. Therefore, as I see it, the spirit of TAFF demands that the fund remain centered about the closest thing to that nucleus of 1952-3-4 (known as 6th Fandom); otherwise, the spirit of the fund will be lost or mutated-- or at least badly violated.

(GMC: Good God! If I understand you correctly, YOU are saying that nobody but fans who were active amateur publishers during 1952-3-4, that is, Sixth Fandom, should be eligible to vote or participate in TAFF!!!)

I charge further and finally that it is the responsibility of the fan in charge of TAFF to see that the fund retains its original mooring in trufandom (the 1958 version of 6th Fandom)..

(GMC: You mean by that, I take it, only those of us who were active in 6th Fandom that are still actifanning?)

..despite the difficulties that may be involved in word usage. Mere semantics should not be allowed to damage the original spirit of TAFF, and it's the director's job to see they don't.

(GMC: This gets worse and worse... Originally the argument concerned the definition of a "fan". WAW insisted that only ampubbers should be called "fans". I argued that was too drastic a limitation, because there are many types of fans and all of them equally entitled to the name. Now you come along and suggest that the only fans who should be allowed to participate in TAFF (and presumably be eligible to run as candidates) are those few leftovers from Sixth Fandom who are still active as ampubbers... Gad, if this keeps up, first thing you know we will discover that the only fans eligible to vote or be candidates in TAFF should be FAPA ns who have been members ever since 1952-3-4! Maybe we had better quit while we are still ahead.....)

..... NOTE: Bottom opposite page -- that should be "TAFF and Mr. Ford."

Well, it looks like I've used up all my verbiage for this weekend. Maybe these long letters to individual fans that I write from time to time are what's holding Fleatooth underwater. Just think: you deprived fandom of a third Fleatooth just by stimulating me with your GZ. No wonder some people dislike you. After all, there's a limit to everything, and this sort of dirty tactics is simply uncalled for. You should be ashamed of yourself, really now.

(GMC: What! Me ashamed of inveigling an additional seven (7) pages of red-hot controversial material for GZ? Never! Besides, think how much benefit fandom will receive (in addition to not getting the third Fleatooth) from being stimulated by you...)

Thanks again for all the Gemzines you've sent me, and I'm looking forward with palpably palpitating anticipation for the 4:19 from Seattle.

Codladh go raith, agus
mise le fir-mheas ort,

/s/ John (Hitchcock)

Lynn A. Hickman, 304 North 11th St., Mt. Vernon, Ill.
March 22, 1958

Dear Gen,

Willis' letters in the latest Gemzine show him to be what he accuses you of -- "Psychologically incapable of assimilating ideas which don't coincide with his preconceptions." Honestly -- he sounds sick.

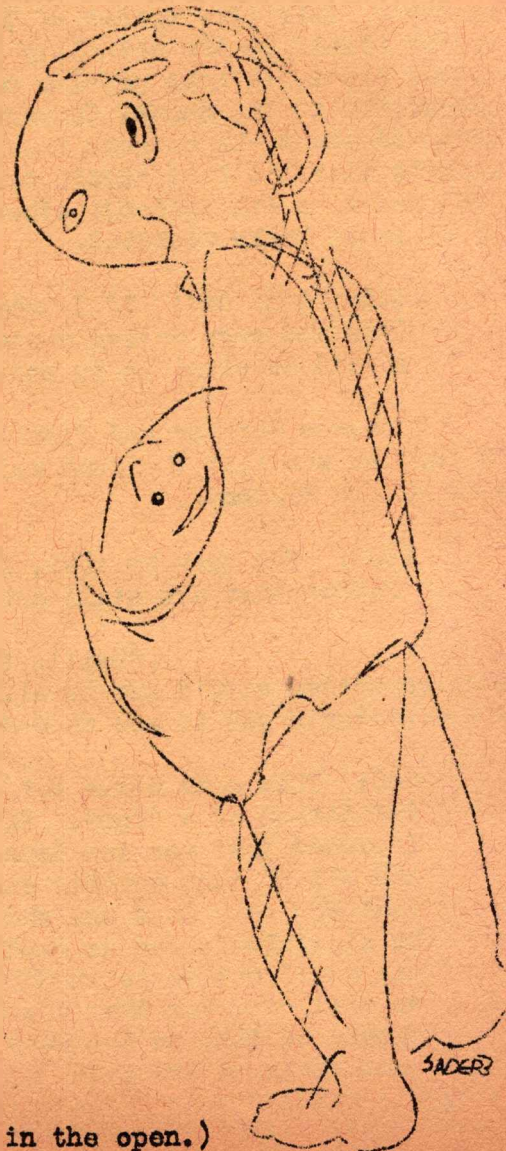
(GMC: Well, I must admit I expected a better defense from him -- I certainly did not think he would collapse into a feeble explosion of insults at the first round. In fact, it looks very much as though this is the first time anyone ever crowded him into a corner and made him put up his fists, with the result that all he can do is wave them helplessly in the air in hopes that his opponent will go away....)

I enjoyed this issue of Gemzine a lot. I voted for Madle and am glad he got to make the trip, but I would have been equally happy to see Stu Hoffman go. Stu has been a good fan for a long time and I hate to see attacks such as Ted White has made. Visited Stu a couple of months ago. What a fabulous collection he has.

Yo's

/s/ Lynn (Hickman)

(GMC: Yes, I consider it exceedingly poor sportsmanship to carry all these wild tales and nasty rumors about Stu. As was pointed out, there was nothing wrong or unethical in Stu's method of campaigning, and whoever it was that started that whispering campaign about 'vote-buying' should have told ALL facts instead of just whispering anonymously about it. Maybe it wasn't in the best of taste and should be forbidden in the future, but rumor-mongering and involving innocent bystanders in this hush-hush poison-pen type of gossip, is not the way to do it. Ted's comments were mild compared to that, and at least in the open.)



Jean Et Annie Linard, 24 rue Petit, Vesoul,
H. Sne France; Vesoul le 23d of March 1957(sic)



Dear Mr. Carr, my good child,

Whether you should be of scandinavian descent or else is no sufficient excuse for showing that of prejudice in favour of so much French admissible in Tapa someday, and publicly, too. We are not Tapaans ourselves yet, granted, but let us say we have not spent 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years exclusively confin- ing ourselves on reading English and English only and nothing else so as to get ac- customed to it better, and also precisely in a sort of search for something else and other than sheer stupidities in our own language, we have not tried to join such a selected circle of foreigner with all what it means of waiting and preparation, to found there French writs in that haven spreading again under our blue eyes.

You should contribute more, seems it, to make Uman Dumbness to withdraw away, even under honourestic pretenses, and be, for us at least, a little more against it, and if not, even though we do not care for the whom that wants also some French in Tapa, we shall come to doubt you ever be of Scandinavian descent, still even more you really know the slightest bit about jazz as an entity -- in general.

Your much apparent opinion there (inferior to, you say tho you do not say to what hence we can't but agree on both feet)..

(GMC: You mean, "Present-day jazz is entirely different from (and in my opinion, inferior to) Jazz as it was played in the Twenties"..?)

..shows you rather refer to Chase Music (also known for 28 yrs. here as Hunt Music); that is a music of the good young age at the time you got across it somehow.

(GMC: Well, I must say I never heard Jazz referred to as "Chase Music" before, but the way you define it, ie, "a music of the good young age at the time you got across it", the term is certainly apt... Boys were chasing girls and girls were chasing boys and we were all chasing after a good time.... "Hunt music" isn't an inappropriate name for it, either. If you get what I mean.)

It shows you equally just get some (limited don't cry, you are not alone of the case) opturated ears to the extent even a good corkscrew couldn't be of any useful use.

Still on Chase chapter, when you speak of the jazz Steve Allen presents, eh... you see what I mean.

(GMC: Sorry -- I'm afraid I don't/-- did you happen to see that particular broadcast to which I referred?)

You ~~seen~~ ^{see} would be one of those out of line purist more, but of course there are so many of ones like you there is nothing to apologize about.

Your feud with Walt Willis apparently lacks too much vigor to be a hoax, hence much less interesting for us (to read only: feeling is another thing) so that in both hypothesis we are sorry. Besides the point of being anti-US slanted, we always wondered how could the fact be affecting anybody, especially United States normally mentalconstituted fang.

(GMC: WAW certainly seems to think he has been accused of being anti-US slanted and the vigor with which he protests this imaginary charge is almost enough to set one to wondering if there wasn't some truth "Methinks, etc, doth protest..")

I presume you are of those new young editors who are trying also their first publication on us, and we can't, as we do with the others, including with ourselves, we can't but encourage you my boy. I am not firmly sure you are a boy, tho. You should know better, of course, and in any case, please adjust an reposition of the gender here. Seeing as over here (we live in France, Eastern France) "Jean" is a male name (pron. like some pron 'an' in "chance"

(GMC: Pronunciations of "chance" vary over here from "Ann" as in a girl's name, to "awn" as in a beard...)

or like it should be pron. 'an' in "restaurant", and once for all, not like "Gene"), I may surprise you, sir, saying "Gertrude" here is a girl (or rather a lady's) name.

(GMC: Well, it has been definitely established in FAPA that Gertrude is no lady..... Ask Jack Spear!)

And I am a male. Here, it is Annie who is the female element, a name we gather which is over your country a sort of gun-smoked male name, more especially willed to dogs, tug-boats, intellectual or naked showbiz stars, and such artistically slanted sweet animal characters.

(GMC: Also little orphans....)

BUT I (for example) am even a queerest homosexual, dag. -Annie-

Outside of that, we liked your new fresh magazine very much, for its staples still more: they lend to be removed easy and consequently easier to replace. Many editors send magazines one has to replace staples, naturally, but some are not precautionous enough to make them easily removable, even though them staples are dirt and anyway unfitted to thickness they yet are a hell to pull out. You make not that error and we appreciate.

((GMC: Hmm... I suspect this guy is trying to kid me. Every issue of OZ has from 3 to 6 staples, cinched down with a hammer, and buried under a layer of binding tape. If those staples are easy to get out, I wonder what the difficult ones are like!!!!))

In one of our next fapazine to come, called WIG PUWTH ("What I gotta put up with this nonsense"), we shall have some more discussing upon and about layout. The first (the two first) issues of Erratic, for instance, being the basical topic of what we consider as the best in neat and sane managements. But yours is not so bad, and we do not dislike. In that line, you should put more "drawing" by GMC? Who is he? And who are, in the real life people you nickname or invent as a husband and such? We used to believe only in Harrogate could grow up some young parano creating self-created persons person, and didn't thought it'd hold overseas that way, too.

(GMC: Hi, Ron! Mr. Carr & Cecil evidently share a lot in common.... or a common lot? I suspect this will be news to Mr. Carr -- I wonder how Cecil feels about it?)

Anyway, thank you for the magazine; we do not deserve it; no more than you deserve this letter. As you may know we ((I, the scripter)) are ill, and quite unfunctional for past months and still next past months to come, and do not write. Not saying it is a honour, a letter of comment from Vesoul is not a frequent thing. Especially when it comes once only all in all. Which, I guess remembering right, is not quite the case with you, besides.

Bravo for your first issues (strangely numbered by the way). If you send more we shall be glad. If you're a boy, Annie tenderly kisses you, and in the reverse case, I do.

Tenderly,

/s/ Jean Linard

(GMC: Neofan Carr returns Annie's tender kiss with fire and passion .. (sizzle, sizzle)... But, alas, Jean gets only a chaste, Grandmotherly embrace. [Mr. Carr insists on the proprieties being observed...] Thanks for the letter and the snapshots. To those of you less fortunate, let me say that the pix disclose Annie as a buxom, bright-eyed brunette, with an impish smile and dimples; Jean (pronounced with an "awn" as in the Gaelic version of Hitchcock's given name) is shown to be a brush-headed blond with a Flattop haircut of the Butch variety, neatly close-to-head ears, a sober expression and a cleft chin. A handsome couple and a tender kiss from either one -- or both, for that matter -- wouldn't be at all hard to take.)

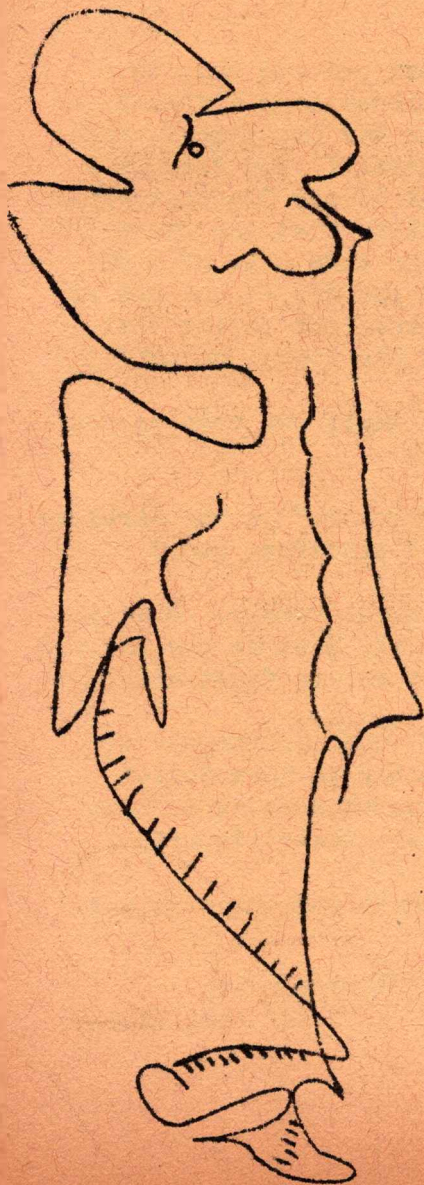
ALAN DODD, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts., England.
6th March 1958

Dear Gem,

Hi again. A few more things for you, after thanking you for the last letter and the clippings. As you'll see from the enclosed I've been working on a couple of things recently -- also saving up a few clippings for you, which as you'll see are much in the tenure of the other ones, of which as you guess I did only send two lots. I can't imagine who sent you the other pieces but the Reporter that you mentioned is new to me, I'd never heard of it before.

(GMC: WAW sent it -- still don't know who the rest came from. I must be getting used to the British Press's shrill agitation. This batch didn't irk me nearly so badly -- in fact, some of them sounded rather pitiful, as tho they were written by someone who was very badly frightened. But the one I got the biggest charge out of, was that letter column on the reverse of the horrendous account of the fire on the US Airbase. Especially taken in conjunction with that diatribe about McCarthy (God rest the poor man's soul) saying, "...in Britain, every decent-minded person held him in contempt!.. the following plaint seemed to tickle my fancy:
Quote "It is a pity that we British have no politicians with the sincerity and guts of the late Senator Joseph McCarthy. -- F. Robinson, Kingston-Avenue, Stony Stratford. Bucks." Unquote.)

Umm - I guess we'll have to admit that no people of one country can ever really look at the same problem through one eye. It's just a seeming physical impossibility. Like one of the characters says in the replies to Capt. Hogan who was on that U.S. base - we've been occupied too long. So it is safe to compare the feelings of the Southerners to the carpetbaggers to the feelings of a number of people here to foreign troops but I can't help feeling I'd



like to see just what the feelings of so many would be if the USAF were paid the same as the RAF - about 3 dollars a week.

(GMC: I dare say there is a tremendous amount of jealousy because of the money. I remember during WWII I was with the Army Transport up in Prince Rupert, BC, and there was a great deal of hard feelings because Canadian and US employees worked in the same shops -- even at the same bench -- doing the same work and the US employee got fantastic pay in comparison to the Canadian. Sometimes he'd get in one day (with overtime) what the Canadian took home for a week's work. But that was the policy of the Canadian Government in an effort to check inflation. Uncle Sugar would no doubt have paid the Canadians double what they paid their own employees if they had been permitted to, because the US Officials there were practically fawning all over the Canadian population in an effort to gain their cooperation and good will. I guess the only thing that kept the situation from rankling too badly was the fact that there was no place to spend the money -- liquor was rationed; the Americans brought their own women -- and the Canadian residents who were already established in Prince Rupert before the Americans came, lived in better housing conditions. Although the Americans were getting more pay, there wasn't much they could do with it, so it didn't sting so badly.)

I'm certain feelings would change almost overnight if such troops had no money and although it's an ingenious thought I can't really imagine spies trying to sneak onto US bases here under the guise of the Queen.

(GMC: Well, maybe not -- but as McCarthy and a few others pointed out, in this country they managed to sneak into a lot tighter places than airbases; they got into Atomic Research, the State Department, the War Department, and even (it looks very much like) into the Supreme Court itself! The disguises they used -- as we can see in the case of Alger Hiss and Robert Oppenheimer's 'friends' -- were every bit as fantastic as the possibility that the Queen might present herself, unannounced and unexpected, at the side gate of a US airbase demanding admission!) (Please note, nobody said she did -- but one of the US soldiers was severely condemned by the British Press for saying that he would not admit without the proper credentials 'even the Queen, herself'.)

Then again you'll see the Communists turn this hatred to their own ends as you'll find in the other clippings.

(GMC: These clippings referred to a Communist-organized "march" on the Airbases where thousands of paraders carried "Yank Go Home" placards, etc.)

There's no way of changing the press either. They'll always be like it and we can only just read it and not change it, just as the English can be an aircraft carrier for the U.S. and do nothing. 'Aint things frustrating at times?

(GMC: I wonder -- would the English really prefer to / ^{risk becoming} another Hungary or Poland for the Russians to gobble? Would it be pleasanter to have Soviet soldiers shoving them around with bayonets on their guns than it is to have the American G.I.s marrying their girls and buying up all their liquor?)

Ah, well let's sit back in our armchair and pretend we don't see these things. We can always stop taking the papers.

(GMC: I guess we might as well -- there's nothing else we can do about it...)

Best again,
Dodderingly,
/s/ Alan (Dodd)

Monsoon: (Just a little bitty Saps leftover)

ERRATIC #3, Jim Caughran, Pakistan. Interesting account of his trip to Pakistan, but all too short for the novelty of the subject matter. Guess there's a lot more truth to the old adage about not being able to see the forest for the trees... here's Jim, with a chance of a lifetime to describe a firsthand account of a country as now and different to the majority of US fandom as the US was to the majority of overseas fans when Willis described it in his HARP STATESIDE. So what does Jim fill up his mag with? A lettercol discussion of desegregation in the South....

YANDRO #61. Bob & Juanita Coulson. Believe it or not, this is the first fanzine that I know of (offhand, that is,) which compares with ASTOUNDING SF in one point: ie, the editorials are more interesting than the fiction! Which is no reflection on the latter, at that. Guess I'm just getting off to a slow start in appreciating YANDRO, because I find that (like warts) it 'seems to grow on one'.... Or maybe it is just that since I met the Coulsons at Midwestcon, I can better appreciate friendly flavor.

HYPHEN #19 - Walter A. Willis. At last the UK fans had a chance to get the feel of a genuine US-type Convention. This LONDON WORLDCON issue is a miniature Harp Stateside with a letter column attached... except that it describes US fandom as it looks in the UK instead of in the US. Interesting and amusing in the Irish manner... albeit the report was written by James White instead of Walter A. (Ghod) Willis.

FFM#3 - Pierre Versins, Primerose 38, Lausanne, Switzerland. A delicate and graceful series of illos entitled "The Female Function as shown by Male Art, History, Psychology, Analogy & Desire". Unfortunately I am not the proper gender to appreciate symbolism depicting females as, variously, a door, a carpet, a hole or a prop, no matter how skillfully done.... Perhaps a series of telephone poles, pawnbrokers emblems, church spires, etc. would find a warmer reception from femfenne.

HI! (BEEPSKY #3) - Eva Firestone. Interesting comments, editorializing and letters all jumbled together in the customary Firestone-format. It adds a piquancy to the reading that almost makes up for the difficulty of disentangling, and this "Fanzine-For-Over-Forty" is recommended to those fans able to qualify....

SCIENCE FANTASY NEWS #15 - Clarko(s) & Sanderson. Gossip (self-styled) and chatter about plans for this year's Con, Chinese cooking (British housewife version), Sputniks, wire tapes, fanzines, and whatever happend to interest the editors at the moment...

THE SAUCERIAN BULLETIN, V.3,#1 has six litho'd pages including a snapshot of Maj. Keyhoe -- (Hooeee! Is HE a sour looking drip!) -- James Moseley (Mmmm, handsome!) -- and a posed portrait of what is supposed to be a Tibetan Lama, T. Lobsang Rampa complete with halo. More inside dope on the Flying Saucers and Saucerers... #2 reveals that the Lama wasn't quite so holy as he may have looked to be on the first glance... but they love him anyway!

FANAC #3 & 4 - Terry Carr & Ron Ellick. News-notes of current interest, most promising of which (to me, at least) is the intriguing notice that Nick & Noreen Falasca may be gunning for the World Science Fiction Society, Inc. Knowing the stiletto-keen satire of which the Falascas are capable, and the deadpan do-gooders who comprise their target, this really ought to be worth watching.

METROFAN #8, David MacDonald, editor. 4 pp litho-offset bearing announcements of Club Meetings and promises of a forthcoming "Old Style Conclave-Convention!" A teasing reminder that New York City has probably enough fans in it alone to put on a full-scale convention twice the size of the London (so-called "World") Convention if they could lay off squabbling among themselves long enough to get together for one.

RUR #4 & 5 - Dave Rike & Carl Brandon. Fanzine comments mostly in #4, plus a bit of editorial commenting about which would be preferable, a summer in New York or SOUTHGATE IN '58! Gad! That ought to be simple... New York will always be there and next summer (1959) will be just as hot as this one, but SOUTHGATE IN '58 comes only once in a lifetime! #5 is full of some of the funniest terror I've ever run across -- and I mean "funny - Ha Ha". The idea of any decent, respectable US citizens going into such a tizzy of fright because the US Government sends around of couple of investigators to check on their character before taking them on as employees, strikes me as laughable. If these boys haven't anything worse on their conscience than belonging to SAPS, FAPA and the CULT, they certainly ought to rest easy... But the thing that tickled me most of all, was the fact that they had the Perfect Alibi right at hand and were too scared to use it! All they had to do was hand the investigators a couple of GEMZINES.... After perusing those 110% Old-Guard Republican, Pro-McCarthy, red-blooded American publications, the dazed investigators would undoubtedly have patted them on the head and murmured, "Bless you, my children..."

NEFF ORGANIZATION, Pres. Ralph Holland. Another organizational chart for the dear old Dying Monster... Like an army in a Comic Opera, there are more Officers in NEFF than there are Privates, but so what? Lay on the gold braid and brass... it's all in fun and the more egoboo, the better fun. Commentworthy, tho, is the fact that the plans for NEFF participation in the SOUTHGATE IN '58 Con are shaping up to a degree unseen since 1952 and the CHICON II. This ought to be a lively year.

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN, Feb. 1958. On time, for a change (or nearly so -- heck, what's a month or two between Neffers when Racy is OE?) Lots of new names and plenty of the old ones, which is as it should be. After all, who's going to steer the neos into the proper crifanac if the case-hardened old timers don't?

SHANGRI-LA, George Fields. Mood music from the past cons to work up fervor for this coming one... Reprints of fannish highlights long past, plus hoop-la for tomorrow's glory. Not bad reading, tho, and if you haven't sent your buck to Sneary, Woolston, Moffat or Fields, well, there's no time like right now!

TOMORROW #2, Niels & Jos Augustin, Jacques Veltmanstr.30, Amsterdam-Slotervaart, Netherlands. 12 for \$1, it says here, but anybody that's got nerve enough to charge that price for 2 sheets of 8 1/2 x 12 paper, even if it IS cut and folded to make an 8 pp 4x6 booklet, ought not to be surprised if he doesn't get very many... Allowing a full measure of awestruck admiration for their skillful handling of a fanzine in what is, to them, a "foreign language", it must be admitted that it really isn't very much a one... Especially since almost half of it runs to fanpoetry, and fanpoetry even at its best (and who should know better than I?) is usually pretty cruddy. But fanpoetry hurdling the double hazards of avant-garde format and translation to an alien tongue... Well, take my word for it. I don't think you will find it worth a dollar for 12 ishs.

CRIFANAC #6 - Orville Mosher. Hoo BOY! Is THIS something! Just when we just about figure we've heard the last of Orv as a fan, he ups and springs something like this on us! Litho and/or print; slick paper; pen and ink drawings, full page illos, BNF & Pro contributors on all 40 of the 8 1/2 x 11 pages! Beautifully done, all in black and white, but for some reason it falls short of the glory the individual items would indicate. I suspect it is because Orville aimed a little TOO high.... It is so close to Pro standards that it is judged according to Pro quality. Unfortunately, it is a vastly different thing to be at the very bottom of Pro quality, than it is to be at the very top of fanzine status... CRIFANAC, alas, is not in the same class with SKYHOOK or QUANDRY.... In pulpzine format, instead of fanzine format, I suspect it would rate along with RAP's "MYSTIC."

See you in SOUTHGATE IN '58?