

The Mag Without A Name

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P L A N S

May I express my gratitude at the receipt of many letters from FAPA members? Some were congratulatory. Some were filled with constructive criticism. All were welcome!

One thing that all had in common were these two queries: (1) What is your definition of a FAN? (2) What do you intend to do in FAPA?

My plans were to have a large publication in this mailing and this article was to have been only one of many items. - but "the best laid plans of mice and men" sometimes go awry. So I'll have to content myself with answering the two questions and hope for the big issue next time.

(1) What is my definition of a fan? A fan, in my opinion, must have many qualifications the first and foremost being that he must enjoy the writings in the field and in order to do so it necessarily follows that he must be a reader of one or more of the pros.

A second qualification -- His enjoyment of the literature must be so enthusiastic as to cause him to want to share that enthusiasm with others. This sharing of enthusiasm or enjoyment with others could occur in numerous ways: correspondence with other fans, activity in local or national fan groups, publication of fan magazines and a general healthy interest in the field.

A 3rd qualification - (Possibly I should have taken into consideration qualities of the fan. ie; good, bad.) A fan, as soon as he is aware of fandom, should live up to its unwritten laws, conventions and ideals. Fandom was founded on the premise that only within itself could fans find a real tolerance for themselves and their fictional love. This tolerance of the opinions of others and tolerance of your own in return should be strictly observed by every fan. ((Lest I be misunderstood may I say that discussions can be pursued without coming to blows or calling of names.))

A fourth qualification - A fan should be willing to cooperate within the limits of his abilities. Any organization, no matter how loosely bound together, is only as good as its members. A trouble causing minority who refuse to acknowledge the democratic principle of majority rule, do more than act as a balance wheel (their normal function), destroy the foundations of the entire structure. It is within the abilities of every fan to cooperate. His ability to cooperate in other matters depends on his knowledge of the item in question and his inclination as well as available time to devote to it. If a fan cannot cooperate to the extent of the one point I have mentioned as being of importance he is not worthy of the name.

A fifth qualification - A fan should maintain his integrity. Under no conditions should he conduct himself so as to lay himself open to the charge that he has lied or been dishonest. In the loosely bound organization of fandom such a qualification is of the utmost importance whether among fans or dealers. A fan can be misinformed and upon finding that to

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the case he can apologize and correct the error, but he should always conduct himself so as to be correct if it is within his abilities to be so.

A sixth qualification - (Possibly this should come under the 3rd point or be included with it.) A fan should conduct himself like a gentleman. I am not suggesting that Emily Post always be adhered to, but after all when a gentleman is wrong he should admit it, etc.

These, in my opinion, are the six cardinal virtues of a fan. Preference of type of literature (ie; stf, fantasy, weird) should not have a bearing, as long as he is interested in at least one of them.

That is my opinion and I'm trying to live up to it, I think, If I'm incorrect, I'm definitely open to criticism.

(2) What are my intentions in FAPA? (or rather, what do I intend to do in FAPA?)

I intend (or hope) to publish somethings of lasting worth. It maybe that the items I select have been done before. In that case I can only hope that I will do a better job in some way or I am able to add to what has already been done, other than merely bringing the material up to date. Whatever I undertake I'll not copy (except as quotes with credit given) other individual's work.

My plans originally called for a publication in every mailing of a worthwhile size and quality. If and when Earl Kay, my coeditor of FANEWSCARD and it's larger sized edition FANEWS, returns from Europe I may be able to achieve that goal. Meanwhile I'll promise at least one per year, with something in every mailing. Any project that I undertake will be brought out only when completed and not piecemeal (à la FFF).

For F.A.P.A. Summer '45

"Dunk"

REACTIONS TO SPRING:

FANTASY AMATEUR, orchids to Bill Watson 4 the hurryup job. SOUTHERN STAR: I'm sorry that this was the last issue. TWILIGHT ECHOS from Joe and I liked it. HORIZONS: Some interesting material, though slightly hodge-podge. PHANTAGRAPH and IN DEFENSE OF THE PHANTAGRAPH: Of these, from friend Wollheim, I have little to say, except: Don't I was always taught that a thing worth doing was worth doing well. THREE FINGERS: nuf sed. BT - HIS MAG: Very interesting. THE DOODLE: I liked the nonsense of Wild Willie. FANTASY COMMENTARY: I invariably like Searles' publication, but I believe Searles forgot to be tolerant when he published CALLING ALL CRACKPOTS. The author was very much misinformed. True each of us has a right to his opinion, but please base your opinion on facts not fancies. Fact or fiction the Lemurian stories are good reading. The fact that Ray believes them to be true and others don't is no reason that Ray can't be right. Remember certain fans still think that rocket flights are impossible. DEVIL TAKE THE HINDMOST: No comment. VR-RECORD REVIEW - As a once pro-musician I am naturally interested in such publications as this. I'm a Stupid B-1 & 2 More of Wild Willie's nonsense. SATYRIC: omitted from my mailing, someone please send me a copy as I'd like to see it. MILTY'S MAG: Short but sweet. FAN DANGO: Laney, I agree!!!! FANTAST'S FOLLY: I particularly enjoyed the poem. TIME BINDER: A very noteworthy effort. This, apparently, is the autobiography of the development of Evans thinking. WALT'S WRAMB-LINGS: VG; TPATAPYOFAPA: hmmm! TALE OF THE EVANS: Watch your language, Everett. RAINBOW TRAIL: Nice, Larry. INTRODUCING "DUNK": Mediocre. RANTODS: VG, altho a trifle stilted. EN GARDE: Very Nice. Cover excellent. BEOWULF: O.K. PHANNY: A TOP FMZ. READER & COLLECTOR: ??? YHOS: Very Nice.