

Prepared for SFPA by Lon Atkins of 9942 Voyager Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. A Zugzwang Publication in December 1977-January 1978.



Mailing comments, as an ancient SFPAn once remarked, are the life-blood of an Apa. In view of this, my zines of late might be regarded as hardening of the arteries. The topics I chose were hardly inward directed toward SFPA, although they represented thoughts I wanted to share. Perhaps it is time to try mailing comments again, for circulatory stimulation. Perhaps, even, for purgative effect.

THE SOUTHERNER (AHOE) * Congratulations to Alan on his new post. The OO has a thoroughly SFPA look to it, and the administrative work is well done. I look forward to a long reign by our latest ~~XXXXX~~ OE.

One comment of a grouching nature: there's too much included material in this mailing of no interest to me, or to the few other SFPAns with whom I've been in contact. Our apa seems to go thru occasional phases when it functions as a "dumping ground" for everybody's overruns. This damages the overall quality and raises our postage bills. I don't like either consequence.



SPIRITUS MUNDI #42 (Guy Lillian) * Must thank you again for the photos from DSC. They came out great. ## Agreed that it's "publish or perish" in this apa. The minac is set low enough so that any but the most extreme of circumstances can be accomodated. I've been skating on the edge of lactivity for months now, but I don't want a free ride. Keeping my hand in, so to speak, is what will bring me round again.

Can't agree at all about neckties, however. With tradition dictating the general lines and colors of business suits, the necktie is the one bright opportunity for expression. Choosing a quality tie, one which complements the suit and shirt, is an art. The tie caps the outfit. I take pains in selecting all my clothes, and it is always the necktie that fuses the elements together into a whole.



THE NEW PORT NEWS #52 (Ned Brooks) * Haven't you been getting shorter lately?? ## Your noiseless typer story reminds me of CMC's experience with their first keystations. We were replacing keypunchs -- mechanical being replaced with electronic. So we made the keystations as quiet as possible. This led to immediate customer resistance, as the keyers were used to the "thawck" of the keypunch. They measured cadence by it. CMC wound up putting in an articial "keyclick" at extra cost.

DWERD'S DUELLING #32 (Gene Reed) * A Betamax would be nice. The western sales manager for Sony is in my MBA class, and he's been telling me a bit about products they have under development. Low cost color video cameras/recorders, etc. Says they should be on the retail market in a big way in the next two years. My plans are to wait until competition has driven the price down into my range, then get one. Imagine what cons will be like when those video cameras are roaming the halls and suites.

THANATOS CEASING (Cecil Hutto) * Nice piece on concerts. Quick Tick hasn't seen fit to send me tickets, but I did get the Bette Midler "Live at Last" album for Christmas. For any one who's seen a show of hers, it's fantastic. (It's also pretty good for those who haven't seen a show of hers.) The presence that a performer brings to a concert is hard to



duplicate via recording. The anima is diminished. The audience isn't right there, screaming and puffing. The dialog is missing (or stale). One of the things I like about this Midler album is the impact -- much of the live feeling is preserved. Maybe it had something to do with my condition on first listening session, but I recommend it highly. Good stuff. (Even if it was taped in Cleveland.)

"YT!"SA"KAFMCIKYHAFT,U?" (George Wells) * I'm only semi-paranoid about pot and the fuzz. In the Great Suburban Regions of California, only dealers seem to get busted. That makes it safe and Cheap. If pot were legalized, they'd stick taxes to it. Pot could wind up costing as much as tobacco and booze. Now that's criminal!

JAPE #3 (Dave Locke) * Hi there, ole buddy. Started any good feuds lately? Sure is dull around here... ## Pornography is always a good topic for a fannish debate. It gets slammed or defended as a class, but I can't see such a clean category there. Pornography deals with sex -- that seems to be the definition. Does that make all art that probes sex porno? I can't think so. There is a class of literature, for example, whose main theme is love and sex. Durrell's ALEXANDRIA QUARTET is an outstanding example. It explores that part of human life which finds expression in love. It locks in on the multiple manifestations, on the twistings, on the sale of love. Is it porno? If not, where does one cross the line, proceeding through STORY OF O and SEX KITTENS GO TO COLLEGE?

HEAVY #23 (George Inzer) * A mere mailing comment isn't going to convey the pleasure I found in discovering a *real* Heavy in the mlg. It's been too long, George, since you last unwound onto stencil this way. I enjoy your perspective on life. I dig it, even if my own style is different in many ways. But then we're all different, aren't we, just like we're really all the same where it counts.

The logical, rational mind resides in the left hemisphere of the brain. It specializes in patterns, sequential logic, and explicit relationships. It can be called the seat of reason. The discovery of its power has led to science and logic and formal theology. Here in the West, we train it from youth. Give it the dominant position. Reverse it.

I suppose that we have always used it for survival. The left hemisphere resembles a computer in much of its function. It can be set to solve complex problems involving abstraction. This leads to progress. It is also the filter that keeps our minds from overloading with sensory input. It allows us to focus our attention. It classifies, categorizes, bridges the gap into our memory, matches past consequences with current situations, guides. It is constrained by the bounds of its own constructs -- and it is only half of the brain.

In the right hemisphere resides intuition, fine motor control, music, interior control of the body. There is no logic as such in the right hemisphere. There is no calibrated sense of time. There is no filter gate. If a soul exists, it dwells in the right hemisphere. If we can perceive the Way, the Force, the Essence, then we perceive it through the right hemisphere. In the West, we give little credibility to the right side of the brain. Because it "knows" and does not justify with skillfully constructed logical arguments, we dismiss it.

The two hemispheres are not equally well developed in all people. As I've said, most graduates of our educational factories are left-oriented, logical people. They have been trained to neglect the right hemisphere. Rationality works perfectly well when the arguments are abstract ones or those constructed by rational people. The law and the customs condition most of us to receive rationality well enough. This system works quite well until stress or other powerful human conditions are encountered. Then it collapses.

On the right side are those things which lie outside of logic, which stir in our inmost beings. One effect of pot, I believe, is that it weakens the rational function -- which is to say, it tears down filters. This is my

own theory, which comes from some logic and much intuition. Take it as you will. It explains things well enough for me.

One last comment, this on the I CHING. When I consult the oracle in my rational state, I get no results. The key for success is the "open" state of mind. When I am able to banish the structured thoughts from my head and just "be," then I can communicate with the CHING. I don't anticipate or predict from trends. I just let the condition I wish to examine dwell within, formless. Then I cast the hexagram. If I have done well, the whole mind may return to interpret the lines.

---COA-----

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THE SPHERE (Don Markstein) * How does one "tlak" on the the phone? Is it anything that Anita Bryant would disapprove of? ## My attitude towards fanzine writing, pouring out my heart or otherwise, is that it's writing -- and writing is meant to be that way. Sure, timebombs. Anytime one sets down an opinion or belief it's a timebomb. Opinions change. Beliefs change. They were never meant to be invariate in a world that bombards us with new inputs daily. If you want to get involved in the recording process -- indeed, the communication process -- it's the risk you take. Don't worry about it. It never bothered W.C. Fields...

GUNFIGHTERS #4 (Bob Jennings) * Lynda Carter may not be much of an actress, but she does fill out what there is of the Wonder Woman costume in the most dramatic ways.

THIN ICE #27 (Mark Verheiden) * Glad to see you doing well in your film efforts. Of your reviews, I've seen only Star Wars. I can't get excited over the garbage it's spawned, either. A SW freak at work has Darth Vader socks pinned up on her wall. Yuk.

MERLIN'S DAUGHTER #3 (Sue Phillips) * Welcome to SFPA! Finally caught Lou Grant the other night. 'Twas apparently a repeat of the first show. I liked it quite a bit. Asner is a fine actor.

MUSWELL HILLBILLY (mike weber) * Carlos Castenadas discusses the use of Jimson weed as a drug of power. I'm with you. I call it Loco weed.

OBLIO #34 (Gary Brown) * Congratulations of the heartiest kind, Mr. President! Your victory reflects material of consistently outstanding quality, true fannish spirit, and influence with the ballot counter. Well done! ## Nice story, you spry 67-year-old, you.

Hmmm. "Kentucky Fried Movie" was done by the Kentucky Fried Theatre, who did indeed come from the midwest some years ago, but have been running crazy shows in a little theatre on Pico in West Los Angeles for the past several years. I've been to see them live. They funny.

Government reactions appear to have little to do with the true nature of a given problem, but rather with the political properties of that problem. Such an approach may make some sense. You cite cigarets as an example of weak government care-taking. But look at the money invested in the tobacco industry, look at the jobs, look at the political lobby -- and most important of all, look at all the people who smoke compulsively. If the government banned tobacco, they'd be faced with the same results as Prohibition brought, or that toughening the anti-marijuana laws again would bring. Government by the politicians, for the people's delusions. Gentle pressure is politically best.

PURPLE HAZE #5 (JoAnn Montalbano) * Remember: Illegitima non carborundum. ## I like your poetry. They reflect the intensity of life in you that I sense and tried to touch with that recently-abused word "perky." Keeping living alive is your style. Just don't fall into the "label trap" that others have tried hanging on you. It can't hurt to listen to

everybody, within the bounds of moderation, but your own thoughts are the ones to heed.

GIMBOATE (Gary Steele) * Sorry to hear about the wreck. Hope both the inconvenience of getting a new car and the troublesome neighbors have vanished by the time you read this comment.

BEER & CANTALOPE (Alan Hutchinson) * Buying a house does s-t-r-a-i-n one for the first couple of years, but with the current rate of inflation, those fixed payments look smaller and smaller, the interest makes a fine tax shelter, and real estate is appreciating so rapidly these days. It's an investment that pays off handsomely.

Your diatribe against the collapsing state of American justice reminds me of a cartoon I saw recently. It showed a mugger at work on an Innocent Citizen. The mugger is saying, "Yeah, I know what I can get for doing this if I'm caught. A six-month suspended sentence." The cartoon was from Punch, so things may be bad in other regions of the world as well.

What do you suggest doing about this unfortunate state? The jails and prisons are over-crowded. Too few tax dollars are available to enlarge facilities, even if that were the answer. Radical notions, like not prosecuting the perpetrators of "crimes without victims," would not achieve a significant relief measure. Lengthy court processes cost an enormous amount. Lawyers' fees are princely, in general. Police forces are overburdened and often nonresponsive. The public is apathetic.

My suggestion is that we appoint Hank the Grand High Enforcer and allow him to arm a horde of barbarians schooled in the moral and ethical teachings of the Lone Ranger. These champions would be charged with stomping out crime, and allowed to use their own devices. We could trust Hank to keep them in line. (Right, Hank?)

Congratulations, by the way, on your finish in the Egoboo Poll as well as your OEship. It takes a real man to beat out Gary Brown in a one-on-one situation. (Last guy to do it was Ted Hendricks, but I understand that Gary had a stubbed toe going into that game.)

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE #2 (Cliff Amos) * A pleasure meeting you at DSC, and welcome to SFFA. You seem to be primarily a con fan. I've heard a lot of favorable things about Rivercons; hope to see your SFFAZine flower as well.

OCCASIONAL BROWSER (Joe Moudry) * The commercial frenzy introduced by the death of Elvis is the worst thing I've seen since that scene in Zorba the Greek where the ghouls raid the house of the deceased. Such exploitation is only made possible by the Public. They buy the stuff.

MAN, BOY, DONKEY #1 (Lester Boutillier) * Welcome to SFFA! If the waitlist seemed intolerable, just wait until you've been on the roster for twelve consecutive years. Now, that's tough.

There are too many cons for anybody to make. You shouldn't worry about activity level in fandom, unless it's for generating an audience. That's perfectly fair, of course. As Stven points out, it's one of the Reasons for fandom. To some extent, one must create this audience before one can fully enjoy fandom. I think that the audience is there, waiting to talk, and one doesn't need Works in order to participate. ## Enjoyed your conreports.

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I was sorry to see Stven drop SFFA. We lost a valuable member. I feel that his ZEN AND THE ART OF EGOSBOO MAINTENANCE was the zine of the year, primarily for the careful thoughts that were so carefully developed. Zines like that are rare, perhaps because the life-situations from which they come are intensely personal experiences. I thank Stven for sharing his mind.

I hope he does develop his talents. Wouldn't mind at all buying a Stven Carlberg premier album in the future.