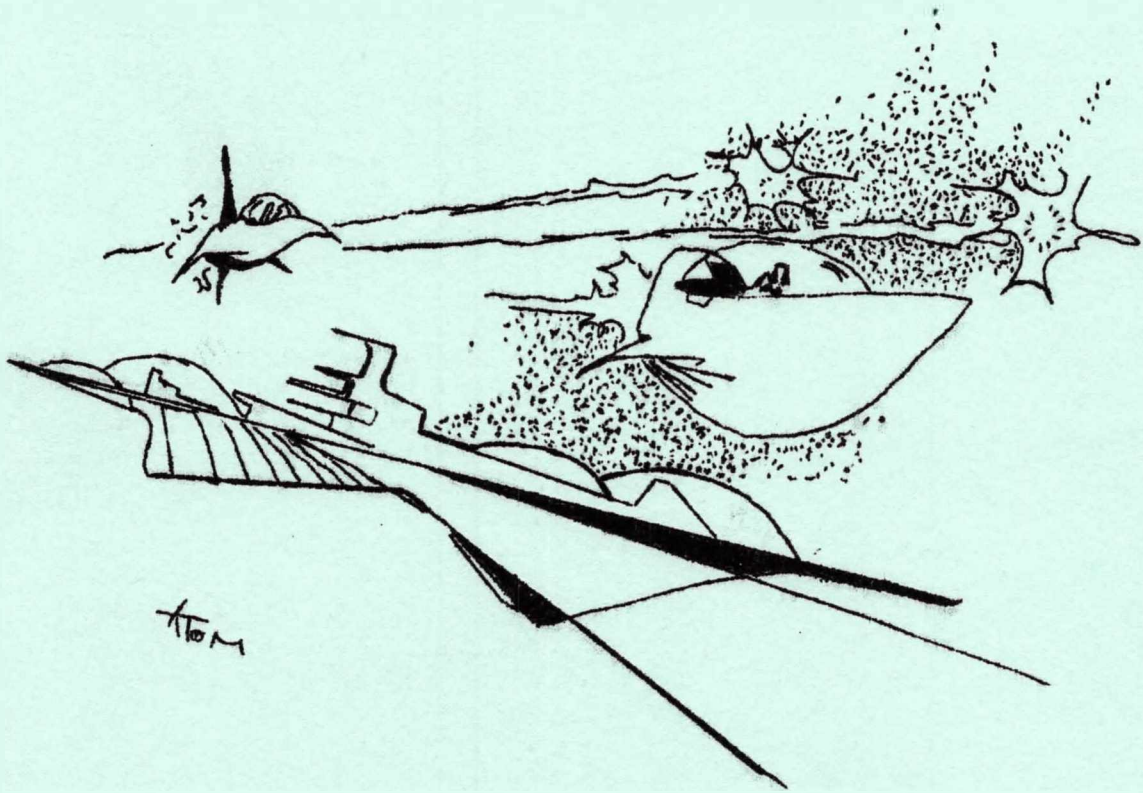


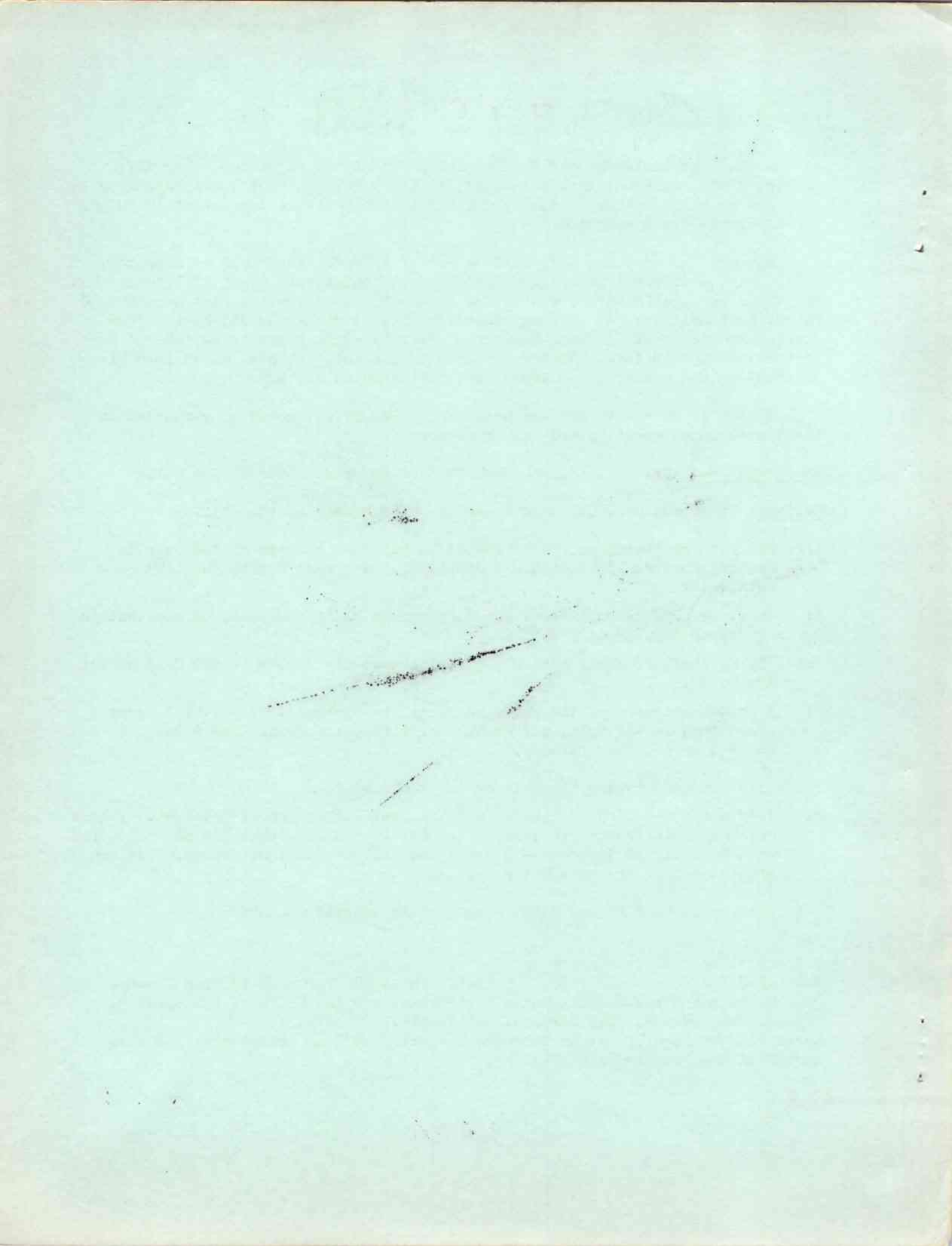
MOONSHINE



MAY 1965

ЗАРА

No. 33



Len's Den

A chap who calls himself The Inquiring Fan called on me the other day. I permitted him entrance, though I wasn't entirely certain that I was entranced by the idea of being interviewed. It was rather early in the day (about 10:30 am) for a Sercon-Type Discussion.

However, he used the Soft Sell — rather than the Hard Sell — Approach, and I got the distinct impression that he would burst into tears if I turned him away. In our preliminary conversation I was able to establish that he had read recent FAPA Mailings, as well as other fanzines, and that he did have a good working knowledge of fans and fandom in general. This seems to be true of many of today's younger fans. Apparently they read a lot, in fact, do quite a bit of studying and research in current and past fannish history.

Presently we got to the business of the Interview, which he conducted in the time-honored Question and Answer manner:

Inquiring Fan: Mr. Moffatt, how does it feel to be a member of the Cult?

Moffatt: I am not now, nor have I ever been, a member of the Cult.

IF: But you are listed as one of the fifty honorary members of the Cult in Fantasy Rotator 157, which was distributed as Avanc 8 with the 110th FAPA Mailing...

M: True, my name is so listed, but somebody is sadly mistaken, or somewhat in error, or deliberately lying.

IF: Why is that? I mean, either you are an honorary member of the Cult or you are not...

M: I am not a member of the Cult, honorary or otherwise. You see, I never asked to join the Cult, nor was I ever invited to join. Had I been, I would have politely refused.

IF: Why? Do you dislike the Cult or its members?

M: It's not a question of like or dislike, but rather one of interest. I have never been interested in joining the Cult. I'm sure that I'm on good terms with some of its members — I don't know all of them, of course. But two apas at a time are enough for me.

IF: That would be FAPA and CAPA, right? What exactly is CAPA?

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M O O N S H I N E Number 33, May 1965. Published for FAPA by Rick Sneary, 2962 Santa Ana Street, South Gate, California, and Len Moffatt, Apartment 5, 5804 E. Gage Avenue, Bell Gardens, California.

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- M: Dan McPhail asked that question too. CAPA is the Carboniferous Amateur Press Alliance, limited to 5 members who were active in 5th Fandom — and who also happen to be good friends. Of course, some of us pre-date the 5th Fandom period, but all of us were active in 5th Fandom. We take turns publishing a monthly OO, called 5X5, and have produced 45 issues to date.
- IF: 45 months — that's quite a record. Well, getting back to the Cult and kindred subjects, I take it that you feel that the Cult's attempt to include all of FAPA in its membership is an ineffective — er — "reply" to Mr. Sneary's proposed amendment.
- M: It certainly is. Of course, like Rick, I don't expect his amendment to pass, but take it for what it was intended to be — censure (not censorship) of Cult material in FAPA.
- IF: I see. Now, on another subject: how do you feel about Pavlat's handling of the "blackballed waiting list"?
- M: I think it was masterful. I think the fans who are going through all this mishmash, around Robin Hood's barn, and so on, to get rid of the Blackball bit are doing it the hard way, and cluttering up the mailings and postmailings with unnecessary material. I guess they think of it as long-range harassment, so that in time the membership will vote against having a blackball provision, but all these shenanigans strike me as a waste of time, and a pain in the ass. So maybe they have a Cause that is Pure and Just, but I think they will alienate people against their Cause. I'm not keen on the blackball bit myself, but I can see where it has been necessary in a couple of instances — and if I were entirely against a blackball provision for FAPA I'd try to get the current provision removed by using the Constitution. Sure, I'd campaign for my Cause first in order to drum up enough votes, but I don't think this long-range harassment bit is good campaigning. So I support Pavlat's handling of the situation 103%.
- IF: Have you ever played pattycake with Mrs. Pavlat?
- M: No, but I hope to someday. Are you implying that I am influenced in my thinking by the fact that Peggy Rae once jitterbugged with me at a one-shot session? Is that what you had in mind?
- IF: Well, yes and no. I mean, fans don't really get that far-fetched in their reasoning, do they?
- M: Ho, ho, ho. Look at the reaction to Rick's amendment, and look at ... well, hell's bells ... skip it. Let's get to the sercon stuff. Do you have any questions regarding Pattycake, for instance?
- IF: Yes, as a matter of fact, I do. I understand that your version is played without reciting anything. Jack Speer and I were wondering about that.
- M: Name-dropper. My version is adult Pattycake, of course. Pease Porridge Hot and Baker's Man verses are for the kiddies. One starts adult Pattycake with a fairly slow rhythm and then speed up progressively. Faster and faster ... and the first player to miss a "pat" is the loser. Simple, really.
- IF: Just one more question. I have started this Project of interviewing fans, but I have no publishing outlet. Would you like to publish this one?

Which we did.

~~Secretary~~ Len Moffatt (April 17, 1965)

Thoughts

While

Typing

with Rick Sneary

Since the end of November, I have been fighting off the effects of a cold that lead to chest infections and a to fast pluse.... I spent only four days in bed, but as of now (April 15th), 5:30 pm is as late as I've dared stay out. And there hasn't been much fanac accomplished in these past weeks and months. While the body has been weak, the spirit has shown even less interest in doing anything. Thus though I'm Treasurer for Westercon 18, and for The Institute for Specialized Literature, Inc., and have this bmg thing going with the CULT, and plan to run for Vice-President of FAPA, this has been my most inactive Winter to date. So, not having done anything, and being preasured by my co-editor to produce something, I am going to fall back on commenting on the last mailing. Part of which I actually read.

AVANC 8: Eney. I have seen Presidential proclamations in the NFFF, I've witnessed Editoral faits in SAPS and Dictatorial Sec.-Tres. in FAPA, but nothing to equal the power of CULT officers. -- But I'm not worried. As I have told our fellow CULT members, "Honorary Memberships" don't stand to mean very much in the eyes of the law. An Honorary member of LASFS still has to pay 35¢ in dues when he come to meetings. An Honorary Doctor of Laws doesn't get to go out and start being a lawyer. And a Honorary Citizen of the U.S. of A., isn't expected to pay income taxes. -- And no one would worry much about being made Honorary members of the Communist Party.. So, I'm not worried. Beside, it will be the FAPA officers who deside who is going to be exculed from membership, and traditionally they follow the spirit of the law, not the letter.

To clear up another point. My objecting to CULT material in FAPA, and Clut-like writing, was brought to a head by PRM and Postmortem, even though I did not read every word of eather. I didn't feal it was necessary, as skim-reading showed them both to contain the same kind of name calling, personal insults and attacts, and persiflage that had I had read before. I didn't see that anything new was added. Warhoon (not a Clut-zine) compunded this by re-printing the worst of everything anyone had said. -- My objection is not to the CULT, or any Cult member, but to the slanderous type of busy-body-ism that I have seen come from the CULT and its members. I have allready admitted that I have not seen enough to pass judgement on all CULT writings, but I'm not trying to. I'm only objecting to one kind, and in your heart you know that its wrong.

SYNAPSE :Speer. Jack, you have found a brand new kind of Sneary error. I not only have trouble spelling, and using proper English, but some times I don't read so well. I know the difference between "euphemism" and "euphuism", but I don't know/remember how to spell eather. Thus as with most long key words I am not sure of, I looked the word up. I flipped to the right pages, "etiology to evening", and started looking for "eup....". When I saw "euphuism" in bold type, with the pronunciation given as (u'fu-izm) I thought that was what I wanted. -- I didn't read farther.. I read about as phoneticly as I spell, so I can read a error in spelling without noticeing it, just as easy as I can write it. -- Thanks for mentioning this--it is something I'll watch more closely in the future.

HORIZONS: 101, Warner. If you are really interested in who absorbs the loss when merchandise is repossessed and sold again at a lower figure--it is the same people who pay for the electric lights...namely, the customers. Bad Debits is an Expense, just like other over-head items. The company expects to have a certain percentage of losses due to bad debits during the year, and adjust their selling prices to cover it. When a loss happens, the amount is charged to Bad Debits, and the account, Reserve for Bad Debits is reduced. See?

I would not think your actually being on the Cult waiting list would have had any effect....should my motion pass, and the Cult ~~hadn't~~ dragooning of membership hadn't taken place. A probationer is not a "member", and I clearly referred only to members.

Thanks for referring to me as a "sage", though I'm not sure I ever said that nothing seemed to happen to you. I've been a little startled at times to realize despite the fact that Horizons is made up mainly of your own doings and opinions, that there is still large areas of your life that we don't know about. That is, of course, as it should be, as I don't believe in putting all of one's little secrets into fanzines. --- In line with the title of this column, a thought has just come to me. Some writers make a trip to the park seem exciting. But other than on fanish matters, your writing never seems to give a feeling excitement or tension. It is lacking in the sensational. (I don't mean your life is) There is always a rather detached and amused air about your writing -- just the reverse of what normal appears in a newspaper. I wonder how much your approach in fanish writing is an unconscious counter-balance to your newspaper writing. ? No! Well, I'm given to making snap-theories that I won't defend.

SERCON'S BANE: #23, F. Busby. No, the fact you and Elinor were married before you entered fandom doesn't effect my theory regarding fans marrying fans. Because I don't have a theory...just some observations. But if those follow along the same line. The Willis's were married first too, and I'd guess also the Coulson's. The only long married (over ten years) fans in our group I can think of, are the Anderson's....and they are rather exceptional in many respects.

- There maybe something to the idea that a fan marrying outside of Fandom shows he has a wider range of contacts, and thus maybe leading a more balanced life.

I had started thinking that maybe it was the fem-fans fault---expecting too much, or being too independent to settle down....in view of the fact that when male fans married non-fans, they some times lived happy ever after. But this theory folded when I remembered our own Helen Wesson, as well as Phyllis Economou and Betty Kujawa, etc. -- About the only thing I can decide is that most fans are too nutty to live with and put up with another fan for long. As more and more fans get married, I naturally hope to be proven wrong. I think your idea for a more or less automatic referendum when a protest is voiced at some one being voted off the Waiting List, is a good idea. I favor keeping Section 9.2, but feel that a way should be found to over-ride the first vote, with less trouble than we have today.-- If anyone cares enough to try.

I have not knowingly condemned you or anyone, for condemning a sordid offense. Your reasons are high and mendable. It is your (collectively) reasoning that I have found wanting. What one believes is wrong and what one believes to have happen, may not always be the same thing. And even what I believe to be true is some-times wrong. (("*" New Paragraph, please!))

To Buz, Cont.-- I'm with you in wishing to see the I.C.'s of such shows as Candid Camera and People are Funny would get it in their own [Help! I was going to use the word "petard", but my Winstion Dictionary says that a petard is a piece of military hardware once used for blowing holes in town gates, and is now a kind of fire-cracker... That isn't what I thought the word ment.. Can anyone put me on to the write word?] I've never enjoyed humor, when it is at some ones expense. My low opinion of Allen Funt is only equalled by my low opinion of the people that allow themselves to be made to look like fools before millions of viewers. -- I'd opinion that maybe Groucho Marx is the only one who could take a telling off, and not be thrown off. -- Your right, the lack of live TV, has taken some of the fun out of viewing. It is sort of like the "perfect" recordings. It may be great to have music without errors, but it is a little unreal.

Rambling fap: #36 -Calkins. You maybe right about my amendment carrying things a bit to far. I wasn't expecting some of the reaction it has recieved. But I'm dissa~~ap~~ointed that you --and some others--reacted to the amendment appearing in the FA, without stopping to read what I said about it in my own zine--in the same mailing.

In re. you last-page comment to Bergeron about the "blackball"--I'm sorry that more people of both persuasions don't feel the same way. The trouble was that there were three arguements going on at different levels, and many insisted there was only one.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE: Boggs. I found this pretty funny, but I'm not sure that it is in good taste.

WHY NOT: Lewis. Your proposal Concerning the Hogo's is a joy to behold. While it may have flaws in it, or fannish bull-headness make it un-workable, it does seem to be the answer to all the main objectiongs to both the present system, and the changes perposed by Ellison. I was especially taken by your idea of useing an Australian Ballot system, in voting. It will mean an end to Hugo's going to winners who have less than a majority of the votes cast.

Incidentally, the Australian Ballot system and our old system of giving a decreasing value point system to a list of canadates, dose give different results. In thinking about it, it seemed like you should get the same results, but ounder test conditions I proved it didn't. Out of five, the First and Second place were the same, but No. 3 in one was No. 5 in the other.

Getting next years operating expenses from this years Con is a good idea too. Money is always short to a Committee before the Con., but they usually have it to give away, afterward.

Certainly the idea of three votes by general membership nomanation, and two by the Awards Committee, is a master stroke. = As a believer in the idea of the Committee selecting the nomanations, do to their being better informed than the rank-an-file, I have been supprised at the heat produced by some of the objectors. There seems to be a strong belief in the mind of some people, that the judges, who ever they maybe, are going to impose their will on all Fandom. And that it will be naturally different than their own. And in view of the apparent low final vote for the Hugo's, I wonder how many of these fans who have objected to an Informed committee of their peers desiding the nomanations, actually took the trouble to vote last year?

Sneary

-4-

Fantasy Amateur: #110 While speaking of members who have thought their way out of troublesome problems, lets hear it for our good S.-T. I'm not sure that his way of answering the question of what do you do when the whole wailing list is black-balled, is Constitutional or not. I'm not sure it is leagal. I'm sure it isn't Fannish. It is to reasonable, and to simple. Would that more of our problems could be solved as easily. Pavlat is a Good Man .. even if he has been a spoil-sport and killed some of the members fun.

My only real objection to the mass blackball was that it barried any chance of a real one, aimed at single individuals. There were two waiting-listers who I thought had diminstared such a low opinion and regard for the present membership of FAPA, that they didn't deserve to become members. But my objection was lost, under Browns.

The EgoBoo Poll was pretty wild in its results. I've no complaint with the top ten, but it seems pretty r̄adicalous that Ted White and I should tie in 33rd place. Ted may step on more toes than I do, but he is certainly many times the better member. About the only thing these results prove is that more of my friends voted than did his. -- I recieved twice the number of votes for Best Mailing Comments, as Ted did, which is an even clear example of how far these polls are off, is one of the best fanzine reviews around. This low score only mean that the few that voted, voted for personalties, rather than performance. If I become Vice President, I will return the Egoboo Poll to the old First, Second, Third place, etc., etc., system. The results may not be more meaningfull, but it atleast makes it possable to count First place votes.

Serenade: Bergeron....No, I never heard from Blish, regarding my simi-apology for the miss-understanding over my remarks in Warhoon. I have since learned from a friend that knows Blish, that he was ill at about the time he wrote the letter blasting me. It is quite likely that it may have been the pain that was putting an edge to his words. I to would be sorry if Blish would stop responding to criticism of his work. I'm sure many a fan would like to know what Heinlein thinks about the things that have been written about him. My remark about his not deeding to answer every unimporten fan that rases a piccadillo, were based on the thought that my remarks had not been very importen. And also the fealing that he read more criticism into my remarks than I had ment. There isn't much illumination in some one saying "Your not a very hot writer", and getting an, "I am too", back. If I'd done a real job of criticizing one of his stories, or his style, I certainly would have hopped for a responce.

self-preservation: Hoffman.. It is great seeing this becomming so regular. And never mind about it rambling. Your ramblings, I enjoy reading.

I was going to look up both carousels and merry-go-rounds in my Britanical (11th Edition, which I picked up peice-meal, over a period of months from Salvation Army at average cost of 35¢ @) but found it had nothing on eather. My fath is shaken. Up tell now they have always told me more than I wanted to know about anything that happen before 1911.

I am also suprised by your little familiarity with Joan Baez. Have you stopped listening to folk music, or don't you have an FM radio? Having grow'd up in the days of radio, my FM was almost as much fun as my first AM. There are 17 different folk music programs here, a week, some 4 hours long. I listened a lot at first, but now fairly rarely.

ta.