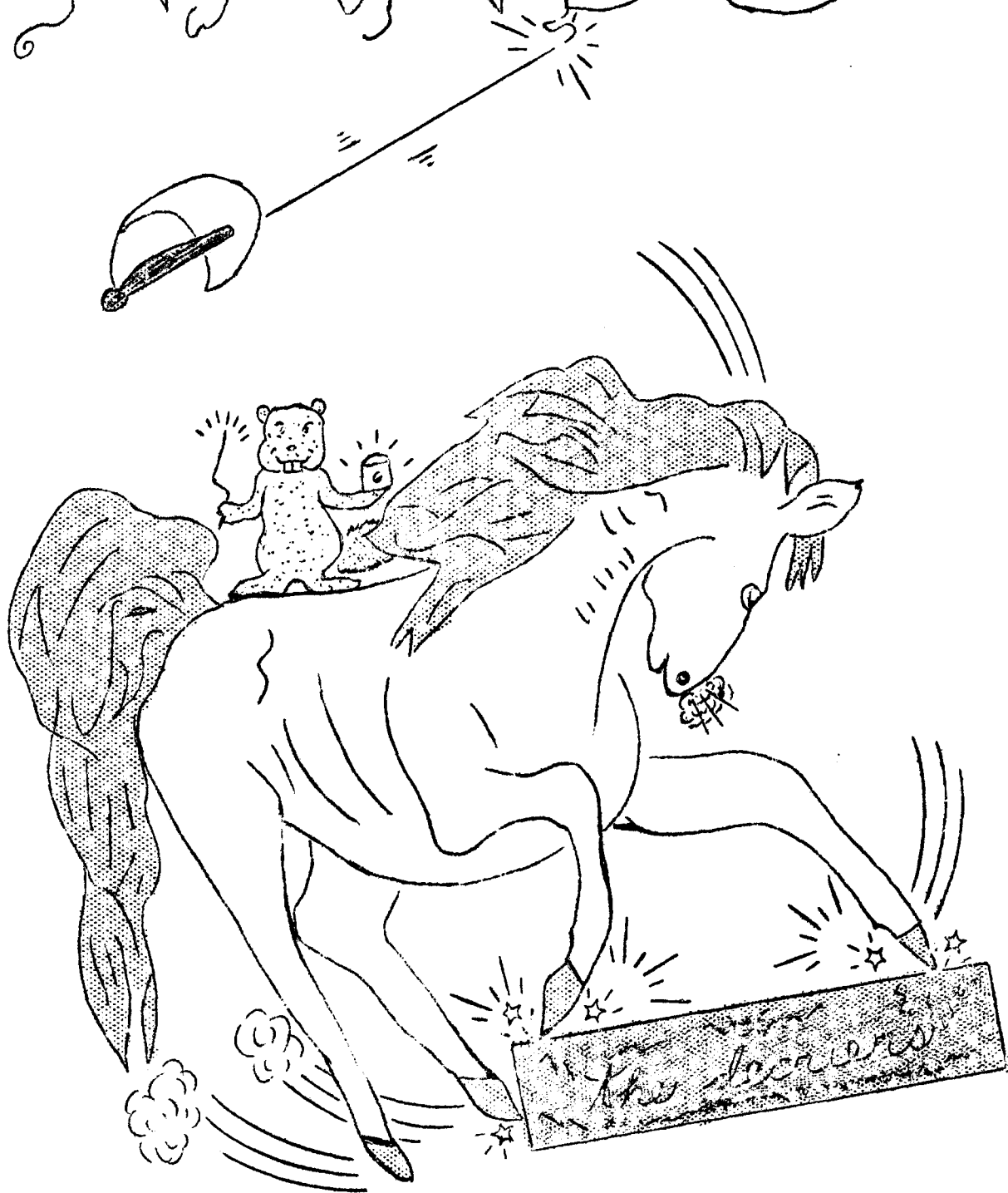


NANDU



Nan Gerding, Box 145, Roseville, Illinois, U.S.A.

This is December 29, 1961, 24 hours before my --th birthday and a good way to celebrate -- years on earth, depending I suppose on one's viewpoint in the matter. At least my years on earth still remain in the two digit classification - when they reach the three digit classification, I'll probably still be going strong. Just my luck, ya' know.

The remainder of these pages is comprised of a scolding, a lecture if you prefer that term. It is well-meant, well-intended, and I hope well-aimed at all decriers.

Saps is Saps is Saps and always the twain shall meet. Regardless of current appearances, Saps is as steady and as sturdy and as enduring as the rock of Gibraltar is claimed to be; perhaps Saps is even more so, for Gibraltar is merely a rock, inanimate, while Saps is made up of a very special type material known as humans, who give the organization a certain enduring flexibility. This organization won't snap or break or crumble because it has elastic strength. Erosion has no effect on it, storms waste their strength against it with futile fury, and man-made attempts to whittle, carve, dynamite, bomb or destroy it are useless. The eternal value of Saps is established for all time.

I'll admit that the current Saps mailing, (#57 that is), was rather difficult to recognize as such and my flagging spirit rose on its haunches and snorted and growled with ire. But there is an ebb and flow to all things in life and older Saps members should recognize the present ebb for what it is and not be discouraged. I am not speaking of the size of the mailing, by the way - small size mailings are at a premium and much to be desired. I am speaking of the quality of the content therein. But fear not, children, the flow is on its way and any of you who have fought through the ebb before will know this and be able to feel the gathering of forces.

The clans are gathering, the trumpet has sounded a clarion demand, and the knights of Saps, male and female, raise their arms for the charge to victory. Their opponents, those who say Saps is on the way out, or that it needs reorganizing, are in for a shock as the earth trembles with the battle cry of Saps in rally, furious, determined, and unconquerable.

As for Saps organization, though I have stated its qualities and qualifications, I have not stated that it is the perfect instrument for this group, as hand fills glove, as love fills life, as human-ness fills humanity, as eternity fills us all. The organization of Saps, per se, is perfect for which it was designed originally and it would be utter madness to attempt to change or mar such perfection in a world where it is so rarely to be found. Any suggestion for such a change is completely dictatorial in concept, non-democratic in deed, and unthinkable in essence. I see red at the thought.

Yes, I will say there are some matters in Saps I have not liked; predominantly, these are two - one is ineffective jabber, comment on comment on comment, filling pages which could easily be put to much better use. This results in zines and mailings that are too large in size, too small in quality. But this always comes out in the wash, given effective scrubbing and given time. The other item is the insistence on mailing comments in every issue of every zine but here I will have to concede a point toward right and a personal dislike in essence at least, and suggest no change whatsoever.

This personal quirk aside, there has to be an exchange of thought, communication among members, or the whole purpose of Saps is shredded from the start. Mind you, I said mailing comments in every zine(issue)--and I meant, too, to imply an insistence on same with disregard for original material by the member doing the zine, and the tendency toward jabberwocky which results. A ctually, creative writing is a form of exchange, but to this must be added some personal exchange with others to round out the functional purpose of Saps.

Briefly then and I hope more lucidly than the foregoing: the style, the organization, the rules, the whole set-up of Saps is fine. No change in procedure or in framework is indicated anywhere. But a change in quality, briefer more concise interchange that says something, means something, is indicated. This exchange between and among the members of this group, personal communication, can be added to or blended with each member's personal-type creative offering, whether it be poetry, prose, artwork, fiction or non-fiction. This way there will be in each zine creative offering from the personality behind the zine and also communicative interchange between that person and the others in the group. Dig me? All one, or all the other, all mailing comments, or all creative offering is too much to the right or too much to the left. We need both in order to keep Saps functioning as it was destined to function. I cannot emphasize enough (and again) that size of zine or mailing has absolutely nothing to do with quality - that mere size is only a physical proportion and cannot substitute for mental or spiritual proportion, not adequately it cannot. My personal preference is for small fanzines, small mailings, for communication is more adequate and much easier attained this way.

And remember - a fanzine is a fan-zine - it is not just a fan nor just a zine, but a combination of both.

Temporarily I rest on that particular subject, but continue the scolding. Saps as an individualistic, highly specialized group is eternal in concept and act. Let no human say differently for very long without disputing it, either by word or act or both. The light of creative thinking and human interchange can fill all dark corners, chase away all ghosts of abberation, crumble all intangible threats and leave only the brilliance of knowledge, humanity, communication, and immortality.

I am a little unhappy that I cannot send out 250 copies of this but since I cannot, I'll have to be content with 45 and

Department will call the attention of approximately 25 times
that number.

With well, not only, create will, demonstrate will, and
the will will the way to be overthrown. It shall not
remain away, however, but will indeed direct itself with great
force into the maintenance of life, the lives of man,
and those around them.

That directly I wish the way to lead to good and happy and
at you, from me, through a world of good, from me and of good,
a following of good, the directly better, and a more-type human
being with all kinds of potential living energy, good of it
good, direct to be in, it, might want to be out. It will not to be
it, right through the state of consciousness. What to do?
I'll tell you my relation. Join and enjoy life, take living,
living, and good of all other people and the good world on which
they are building their way to tomorrow.

I share with this thought: that is how it has and always
the truth shall stand. The feeling may be full of sound and joy,
but the results will never be a feeling of strength, calm, and
the ordinary quality which comes from the growth and development
of human thought and human action.

To share, all we feel that. To have wanted your health and
filling your mind with nothing but the most healthy, healthy,
nothing of which is worth a man to a physical or human or
physical human. They have, what, how and how and life,
you will not touch the heart of man and will accomplish little
what matter to all up the heart of the man and those around
to the world.

Thoughts should be permanent, as best you.

Wally



hopethey will fulfill the function of approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ times that number.

Think well, act well, create well, communicate well, and the well will fill the Saps cup to overflowing. It shall not runneth over, however, but will instead direct itself with great force into the mainstream of life, our lives, the lives of Saps and those around them.

Most sincerely I wish the very best to each and every one of you, from me, Nangee, a knight of 200th fandom and of Saps, a follower of Roscoe, the almighty Beaver, and a mere-type human being with all kinds of potential laying around, none of it used. Afraid to use it, might wear it out. Afraid not to use it, might disappear into the mists of nothingness. What to do?? I'll tell you my solution. Relax and enjoy life, Saps, living, loving, and most of all enjoy people and the good earth on which they are battling their way to immortality.

I close with this thought: Saps is Saps is Saps and always the twain shall meet. The meeting may be full of sound and fury but the results will always be a blending of strength, calm, and the enduring quality which comes from the growth and development of human thought and human spirit.

So there, all ye decriers! Ye have wasted your breath and filled your lungs with nothing but hot air and mumbly-jumbly, neither of which is worth a damn in a functional or human or spiritual sense. Decry then, mumble, blow and blow and huff, you will not tumble the House of Saps and will accomplish little else except to stir up the dust of the ages and choke yourselves in the process.

Forewarned should be forearmed, so heed ye.

