

# NIEKAS

1



FM

NICKAS 1:1

I never did particularly care for Peaks as my N'APA MCzine title, and I've finally done something about it. Presenting (sound of trumpets! Wild cheers!) Nickas #1.

Some 32 months ago I was planning my first issue of my first fanzine and had several titles under consideration. I now remember only two -- Polhode which I eventually chose and "Perkunas" which I relegated to use as heading for my book reviews. About this time Belle Dietz suggested I title my zine Peaks's, and after some that I decided to use that for my MC-section heading. Within a few ish the MCs had fissioned off into a zine of their own under the same title (or minor variations thereon). However, in the last issue of Polhode it made its re-appearance as heading for a collection of short editorials (as opposed to the more detailed discourses which appeared as "About Various Things.") It will be used in that manner for at least one more issue of Polh simply because a heading with that title was put onto electronic stencil. Also, extra copies were to be run (I don't know whether or not Frank Priete's done it yet) so there might be 1 or even two more MC zines by that title in the near future.

Why change it? Simply because I never really cared for it but could think of nothing better and wasn't overwhelmingly opposed. As I said in Polhode 3, it implied that my name is pronounced in a way that it isn't. But now, thanks to the CCNY SF club [you'll be hearing a lot more about that -- particularly if Advant 'Garbage' for the Canals is ready in time for this mailing] I do have a replacement title, and there you see it at the top of this page and (even) on the cover!

This group had (as I've said before) sprung up independent of fandom, and they went and gave themselves the name of [\*shudder!\*] "Sci-Fi". Now they were vaguely aware of fandom from passing references in the prezines (primarily, I'd imagine, from the Ziff-Davis lettercols and Sky Miller's column) but didn't know how to go about getting in contact. Like many other school clubs, they wanted to publish a club magazine and, when I attended my first meeting on March 2nd, they were referring to it as their "fanzine". However, had old Charlie Brown had been to their previous meeting so I don't know whether they'd picked the word up from him or the prezines.

Anyhow, without ever having seen a single fanzine they were making preparations to publish one of their own. Because of their club name they were going to call it "Sci Fi" and use the similarly sounding greek letters on its cover. I felt this was too similar to the not so long ago folded Psi Phi and advised them to find another name. Marsha Elkin proposed Sorsan because that's what everybody did at their meetings, but that didn't go over too well. Finally, about an hour was spent at one meeting proposing all sorts of names and arguing about them. One which was almost accepted was Nickas, but they finally settled on Engram. (#1 was recently printed in an edition of 200 copies, but after some 60 had been distributed around CCNY and to friends the rest were stolen from the club office. [One is presumably in the mails on its way to me.] Whether or not they will reprint if the copies aren't recovered, I don't know.) Since I liked Nickas, I decided to take it for my own use.

Coda! This is, I see, my 17th N'APAZine. Now I joined with the 2nd mailing, and completely missed contributing to the 3rd and 4th, so I'm averaging about 2 zines per mailing. Well, I certainly didn't intend to have 3 last time around. However, the Blob wanted to collate Peaks which he'd run for me without waiting for the separately mailed photosheet so he ran them thru the mailing as two separate zines. And I decided to include the program booklet for the heck of it. About 50% was written by me tho I had nothing to do with the publication. Belle Dietz cut the stencils and Chris Moskowitz ran it off on a Gestetner at her Army Reserve unit. (I'm responsible for the general layout + the text on pages 2 & 4 -- tho the goof of calling the "Philly Conference" the "Philcon"[which is reserved for the worldcons] was not in my mas but originated somewhere else along the line.)

So anyhow, I had three "zines" (if some can be dignified with such a word) which

NIKKAS 1:2

should have been 2, and which makes this my 17th. (Actually when I collated my non-WAPA copies of Peskys I included the photopage.)

After I did the lettering for the cover I had to think of something to fill up the rest of the page. Well, the caption came easily enuf [and not to be coy and keep you in suspense, "niekas" is the Lithuanian word for "nothing."] but I needed people/critters to say the words. Since I can't draw it had to be something simple and the Atom-like characters came to mind. I was bothered a bit about "stealing" his style but then I remembered that Rip Schultz used similar creatures so I figured it was safe for me to do likewise.

I never got around to generally distributing copies of the final Peskys but I did include copies with some letters I'd written -- one to Harry Warner. (423 Summit Ave, Hagerstown Md) In his reply to me he made a few comments, so... Laiikas

"Very many thanks for Pesky's 11, one of four fanzines that I read one right after the other last Saturday. They have become pretty well jumbled up in my memory but I think that I can resort them out long enough to make a few comments.

"Of course, as you hint, I'm not going ahead as fast on the fan history project as I would if I didn't write letters of comment on most fanzines that arrive. But when I tried the other method, I found myself losing interest in fandom so rapidly for failure to participate in its current course that I probably wouldn't have completed the fan history research. So I'll be six months or a year later with the writing than if I gave myself more exclusively to it, but I'm enjoying myself much more.

"Won't you be surprised if your new-found friend from the subway turns up at a club meeting and all the older fans rush up to him with glad, welcoming shouts of "Will Sykora!" or "Johnny Giunta!"? [Last ish I told about an odd character who walked up to me while I was reading an Analog and engaged me in conversation. I told him about the forthcoming Luncheon and speculated about his showing up.] However, he's probably just one of those individuals with many blood brothers at Hagerstown's lunch counters and street corners. I sometimes get through three or four days in a row without a meal that isn't shot up by some character sitting down beside me and starting to rattle off cliches to make conversation. If I don't respond politely I can feel eyes boring into me in hurt and disappointed fashion and I reply in kind. I get sick at the stomach at my own ability to let truisms and platitudes flow forth. There are also men lurking at almost every downtown street corner in Hagerstown, waiting until a pedestrian is held up by the need to wait for a change in the traffic light, which serves as enough opportunity for starting up a trivial conversation. But even this isn't as bad as the inevitable experience when I go somewhere to take pictures for the newspaper. There is always one person in the group who insists on attaching to me like a leech, asking questions about the technical aspects of the photographs I'm about to take and inquiring about how much this and that piece of equipment cost. One dreadful little boy even got into the biggest high school football game last season by attaching himself to me like this while I was still outside the stadium, walking in beside me, and running up and down the sidelines at my heels all during the game. Normally nobody but authorized personnel are permitted on the sidelines, but everybody else assumed that I'd acquired a helper because of the importance of the occasion.

"Yrs., &c., Harry."

Did you know that Giunta was still marginally connected with fandom thru doing art, layout, etc for SFFimes and associated publications? And Michel turned up at an ESFA meeting about 3 years ago whereupon he reminisced with Sam, Allan Howard and Alex Osheroff. (ESFA -- the graveyard of NY fandom!)

I don't know whether I'd mentioned this before in one of my lines, and if I remember so I will repeat it in my Shadow FAPAzine, but FAPA charter member Alex

WEEKAS 1:3

Osheroff was a member of ESFA untill comparatively recently. During most of ESFAs 16 year career Alan Howard was director [= president] but for the first time Alex took the office for 6 months starting with the Oct 58 meeting. He was a fabulous officer and arranged superb programs for each monthly meeting. These were based on the talents of the members themselves and (for the most part) didn't rely on outside speakers, and yet they rivalled many regional cons in quality. For some reason I was placed back on the mailing list at this time and did decide to join the club as a result of these programs. (Previously I'd hesitated because 1 way carfare out to meetings cost 50¢, and I figured no SF club is worth \$1 carfare + 50¢ dues per meeting.) Anyhow, at this point Alex was in the last stages of gassification and was selling the dregs of his once truly fabulous collection. (It was from him that I got a First Lensman for \$1 and got thrown in free a copy of Keller's The Passionate Lover which was limited to an edition of 7 copies.) At the April 59 meeting his term of office expired, but at that meeting we got thrown out of Slovak Sokal Hall. Therefore the April and May meetings were held in his house, and after that (if I remember correctly) he's attended only one meeting. I've heard that he's since become a fanatical stamp collector and looking at television 12 hours a day.

But back to your letter.... That is one blessing of small town living I'm glad NY doesn't have. Here, for someone to walk up to you and engage in conversation is virtually unheard of. Now I don't imagine that this is because of a difference in people but because of a difference in acceptable social behavior. I wonder what makes them do it where it is acceptable. Are these old retired people who are lonely and are clutching at straws to get some sort of companionship? If so, how do they feel about what they say? (This, of course, is an unanswerable question.) I know that at times I get a feeling of horrible inadequacy and nothing to say when confronted with some fans and there is a need to say something (a feeling portrayed very well in some Steve Stiles cartoons a year or two ago) Do they feel this same way and in desperation resort to platitudes in order to say something?

Well, there was another thing or two I was gonna discuss, but I think I had best start on the MCs for this quarter. Nobbs at the end if I have time....

THE ALLIANCE AMATEUR -- (Lichtman) When Belle first took over as OE she wanted to change the O-O title too, but to the Neffer Ally. She too thought "N'APA Yap" wasn't dignified enough, but changed her mind (if I remember) on the grounds that when you try for dignity you come in for more ridicule than when you purposely laugh at yourself. She put the matter to a vote and the membership agreed with her later stand. I have a doubt or two about the new title, but will let matters stand at they are.

You say that you will give us 'till the 15th to get material in because getting a buzzle out takes only a few hours if things are run right. However, I suggest that you leave the by-laws themselves as they are, just giving the extra 5 days unofficially. You never can tell how the next OE will want to run things, and heah might find the extra 5 days very useful and perhaps even necessary.

Why didn't you list the riders on the mailing contents listing? Even if it doesn't bring page credit, there should be some sort of acknowledgement that they do belong.

GUANO 14 -- (Hayes) In re the welcomittee. One friend who recently joined the NJF was undecided about what to do about the "no correspondence" space and just put a question mark there. The result was a carboned letter from Ann Chamberlain & no others which wasn't disappointing for none were really expected. Now that Carl Frederick finally got around to joining and (much to my surprize) wanted welcomletters I'll see how many he gets. I think that when I joined some 3 years ago I received 11 or 12.

QUIRK -- (Williams) Dammit, I've been meaning to send a sub in for Cinder for

almost ages now, but just never getting around to it. [In the few days between when I started and finished that sentence I finally did do so.]

I enjoyed your little magazine very much and considered it among the best in the mailing. Keep up this good work and you'll be a real asset to N'APA and reap plenty of egoboo.

You say "And you know, it's a hell of a lot more fun to publish something thin but frequent, than to produce a 50-page zine every year or so." I'm beginning to come around to that point of view myself. My last issue of Poikode, published about 1 1/2 years ago, ran about 40 pages and the next will probably run 60 or 70. But since it is so large, and has justified margins and all that jazz, I keep putting off working on it. Last summer between when I finished Nightbeam and returned to school I managed to cut 17 pages of the lettercol and since then I've dummied and stencilled a 1-page filler article, but that's all. One of the articles I have is now so out of date that I'm beginning to wonder if I'll be able to use it. Oh well, maybe if I'm not too busy this summer and have access to a good typer at my summer job I'll finally finish it up. But after this issue I think I will cut down on its size and up its frequency. Maybe I'll even do away with the justified margins.

The things Larry says in his article really fit together well. However, one thing kinda bothers me. All Larry shows is that 1-st born have a greater tendency to join organizations than others do so that all organizations which are communicative in nature (which is a large majority) would have a greater portion of first born than one would expect from population statistics alone. Why are fans almost exclusively first-born? No other organization have this great preponderance? Finally, is there any correlation between reading SF and being first-born? Well, we'll just have to give Pete Graham the \$5,000 he would need to conduct the survey he outlined in a recent Lighthouse and all these and many more questions will be answered.

MEGALOSCOPE 3 -- (McCombs) Another excellent ish! And this includes the artwork. Perhaps your drawings, as you commented after the March ESFA meeting, which are attempts to picture definite people aren't too successful, but still they are good drawings. But as usual Zuber was the high point (artwise) of your zine.

I really am NOT interested in cross-word puzzles and never do mundane ones, but for some reason I took a crack at yours and before I knew it more than an hour had passed. It is well constructed and rivals the one in Xero #1. I got laughs out of the definitions "a girl's name or fannish activity" (Sue), Front half of an extinct bird (the rear half is similar, but the birds could tell) (do), and "Punctuation mark (following a /)" (-). The I got many (most, in fact) slots filled in a fair number of words remain incomplete...often missing only one letter.

Hold it there! What I had said (or meant to convey, at least) was that while I didn't care for much of Willis' contemporary output (a major exception being "The Spanish Main") I did like most of the stuff reprinted in The Willis Papers. The least interesting items in TWP were "The Subcutaneous Fan" and "Interfauma" (the former recently reprinted in Void and, strangely enuf, the other originally from there. Apparently my tastes differ from TEW's rather extremely.)

I particularly liked the Scott story and found the article on Zen the least interesting.

[At this point I hit the mailing in scrambled order--half the mailing, including the 0-0, is out on loan and the zines I have are no longer in order.]

HALF LIFE -- (Woolston) I'm afraid I found this issue rather incoherent. ///  
On the other hand it's good to see a revival of SFPArade. I have been buying up fanzine collections and in that way picked up #s 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, & 8 + the independently mailed 1-sheeter "One Shot for Willis". Since you didn't

NIKAS 1:5

number your issue I don't know whether there were any between #8 and it tho I suspect that there weren't. Is there a mess of old copies still floating around somewhere in LA so that I could fill in the issues I need?

Len Moffatt remarks about fanzines having higher subrates today than they did some years ago and attributes this to higher production costs. Another reason for this is the increase in size for the average fanzine. Monsters like Habakuk, Iero, Lighthouse, etc, were unheard of (except for some more ambitious annishes) back then.

Your first issue wasn't bad at all, and should really improve now that you have all of the preliminary statements of policy out of the way. Sorry I couldn't help on your request for material, but as I said in my PC I'm really in a dither what with finishing up school and getting ready to move out to the west coast for the summer.

NO PLACE # 8 -- (Busby) You ask if I'm sure that MEZE deliberately refuses "to let any Wlers have copies of her PAPAzine." Well, when I got on the PAPA WL she was CE and I wrote her about buying bundles from surplus stock. She said I could, provided nobody higher up on the WL ordered the last copy. She waited several months to make sure nobody higher up did order one and no member complained that his had been lost in the mails and then sent it to me. Several zines were missing from the bundle, as she explained in advance. Two because they had been purchased individually and the others because "...Bennett, Wesson and I refuse to distribute anything to w-lers and have directed that our zines be restricted to members only." [Letter dated March 20, 1961.] Speaking of PAPAzines, Buz old man, any chance of my getting copies of yours and Elinor's direct?

You said to Pelz that Elinor suspects the DMC letter in Cinzins is by Willick --the very person I had guessed and hinted at in the final Peaky'g. However, I met him at the Lunacon and asked him -- he denied writing it and said that "drizzling shits" is a common Army term which could have been picked up and used by almost anyone. He took a guess as to who wrote it (a member of N'APA) but since it was of a very controversial nature and I'm not certain that it was meant for publication I won't say who it was.

~~WATER~~ RACHE 6 -- (Bruce Pelz) [Ups, sorry. Wrong APA. And that was an unintentional typo too -- I knew the next zine in the pile was yours and there was no title on the cover and....]

Liked the two "Dixie" pastiches by Stanbery very much. Ya know, this is the first time that I've seen his name mentioned and not related to Coventry. (Or at least it's the first time I've noticed it.)

Oh Chu! I can see the usefulness of and appreciate your publishing a quarterly APActivity chart, bet fer Chu's sake (and Roscoe's too--impartiality, you know!) was it necessary to run both just because you'd missed doing so last time? If you wanted a record of both quarters in print footnotes giving drops and admissions would have been plenty. After all, the exact WL positions aren't that important to have each quarter while the actual memberships are of considerably more importance. And if you do something like that, why not list in exactly which FR during that quarter someone was dropped or admitted, from/into the Cult? //// And would it be too much work to add to your list those who are on two or more WLs but IN NO APAs?

THERE MUST BE A HORSE IN HERE [somewhere] # 3 & HILLSIDE GRAPHIC reprint ed -- (Don Fitch) I didn't get the significance of the first title until some two months after I'd read the zine. A week or two ago I read a passing reference in some other zine to "digging thru a pile of throwaways at the "Graphics" exhibition because with all that ~~ssssssss~~ there, there must be a horse in there somewhere." The expression sounds logical enough in its own illogical way to be a phrase quoted from



MEENAS 1:7

The story (getting back to that for a minute) reminds me of how little is still known about Venus. From the intensity and spectrum of certain radiation coming from Venus a temperature of 600° K (or F for that matter since 600° K equals approximately 620° F) is calculated. However, by applying the laws of thermodynamics a body the distance from the Sun that Venus is just couldn't be that hot. So a bunch of scientists, particularly Jastrow and Rasool of NASA's Institute for Space Studies, are madly trying to formulate a model for Venus which would allow it to trap that much of the incident heat or to radiate as observed without being so hot. They haven't been having too much success. But if Venus does have a temperature of 600°, things are gonna be mighty uncomfortable for our future astronauts. Well, if all goes well a Mariner space probe will be launched towards Venus in the next year and should impact (the if it has as much luck as the Ranger had....) so with luck we'll know once and for all not too long from now.

But the Mariner is already in trouble. It was supposed to be launched with a Centaur rocket, but last month our first such liquid hydrogen fueled ship blew up about 1 minute after launch putting the much delayed program a total of 15 months behind schedule. Now the rocket can't possibly be ready in time to launch the Mariner and there is talk of using a stripped down and much lighter version on an older, weaker, rocket. Well, maybe the Russians will be successful and tell us about the nature of Venus.

I suspect I was the cause of about half of that list of mis-spelled words you ended your zine with.

SCOFARAW 4 -- (Patton) Enjoyed but no comment; however I do want to make some remarks about Salamander 1 & 2 which I received today and don't expect to have time to write LCCs on. I first read in the QUIT that the UCLA library was interested in fanzines, and now that I have gotten the additional info in your zines I sent them a batch of things I'd published. I look upon this as A Good Thing and will probably continue sending them my zines--other than N'APA that is, since apparently our ~~editor~~ OE has gotten them to sub to the mailings. I sent them the 3 issues of Polkade I'd published, my last 3 SAPSzines, my 2 SEADOW FAPA zines and the 1 Tightbeam I'd done. I didn't send my recent N'APA-zines 'cause they already have the complete mailings and even tho I still have copies of the early ish of Pesky's I considered them too cruddy to send. ## And was that Barr drawing offbeat? Both the drawing and reproduction were superb.

GEMZINE -- (Carr) The bit about the Osteopath was very interesting. Did you send him a copy? If so, how soon afterwards were the papers served? Seriously, I was interested and do agree that you have to be careful to watch out for gyps and worse. On the other hand, I suppose almost any Seattleite could figure out who you're talking about just from the description of the building, etc, even if he had never heard of that "doctor" before.

ABIANICO 4 -- (Bowers) I believe some US prozines did once carry guest editorials. Just checked--the first 4 issues of If had guest editorials -- by Capt K.F.Slater (Operation Fantast), Jimmy Taurasi (about fandom -- which had totally confused me when I first read it. I kept wondering what this "fandom" was that he kept talking about and of which I had never before heard mention. I didn't find out for another 2 or 3 years until I started to read Reg Phillips' column in a Palmer mag and then Boucher's Rocket to the Morgue which convinced me that fandom was fun and I should try to get into it.) Sam Merwin Jr and Lila Schaffer (Fantastic Adventures, it says). After that there were no more thru # 12 and I didn't check any further. I think OW also had guest editorials, or am I confusing that with the "all editor issue" they once ran?

Thanks for sending Abianico #'s 1 & 2 -- I had enjoyed them very much. But howcum you hadn't sent me #3? I mean, like, I had sent you trade zines.

To put it mildly, your artwork isn't bad at all.

PLACK 7 -- (Anderson) You ask what the difference between multilith and offset? Well, altho a multilith machine works on the offset principle, etc., I would tend to call it multi if direct image masters were used and offset if metal plates were used. I haven't come up with a consistently used term for the case of a paper master which is produced photographically or by something like Xerox. (By this I mean that I use both names interchangeably in this case.) Perhaps it should be called "photo-multilith?"

I had an almost identical high-school math/science curriculum. The only difference is that I had no general science (Bio in the freshman year, no science in the 2nd) but had a full year of intermediate algebra. Since I left my high school has introduced a 1st year general science course and moved the Bio to the 2nd year. Long before I attended they had a 2nd, advanced bio course for the seniors and still had a lot of lab equipment around from it which they let the Bio club members use.

That was an excellent article on the morality of fallout shelters. As for their usefulness, I don't know. Certainly not here in NY but as you say up where they are they do increase the probability of survival in the case of a miss...IF they are properly built // Then, my parents have a summer place in Paulinskil Lake NJ which is some 60 miles West of NYC and in a hilly region so it just might be safe from the blast. Unfortunately, however, it is only 20-25 miles from Dover NJ in the vicinity of which are Picatinny Arsenal, the Hercules Powder Co and Thiokol so that might be a target too. Oh well....

In re GEM Carr's remarks about "rebellion against the church" being one of the signs of immaturity" and your reply. I suppose that she was referring to the adolescent kind demonstrated so gloriously by Mike Deckinger a year or two back in various gazettes and (to a far lesser extent) by Bob Lambek here in the pages of N'APA. On the other hand the cases you cite, Don, are more reasoned (whether rightly or wrongly I will not discuss at this point) and would be those used by a not necessarily immature adult. So you caught GEM in a vaguely and improperly worded statement and brot her to task for it -- a thing she loves to do herself. Now let's see what her reaction will be.

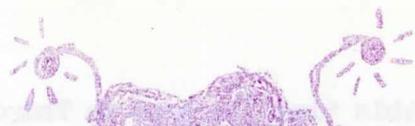
Oh yes -- you might be interested to know that Tom Paley (of "The New Lost City Ramblers") and his wife showed up at the June 3rd ESFA meeting. [Elliot Shorter says that he is well known in the folk-singing field and is connected with "Folkways Records",] And it is a real wild story of how it happened that they came.

They were riding on the 5th Ave bus about a week before that and his wife was reading New Maps of Hell. Every two or so minutes she read him a passage with a remark like "well, get this!" etc and they started to discuss (facetiously, of course) how Campbell must have changed Astounding to Analog because at one point Amis made some rather disparaging remarks about the prozine titles such as Amazing, Astounding etc. Somewhere during this conversation he made some remark about wanting to get in contact with fandom (oh yes--it was when she was on the part of the book which dealt with fandom) and somebody who was sitting across the aisle from them took his nose out of a book and said in a funny squeaking voice [which Tom imitated perfectly when relating this] "I'm a fan." That somebody was Carl Frederick, who told them about the upcoming ESFA meeting.

While still on the bus Tom had told Carl of his previous brush with fandom back in 1944. He was going to City College then and was quite an avid reader of SF. He became friendly with a fellow student who was an active fan and became art editor of that person's fanzine...for one issue at which point the zine folded. (I forget the name of the fan and the zine, but when Tom mentioned it SAM remembered it and even Tom's cover drawing.) He'd been shown a number of fanzines at that time but wasn't impressed because they were more concerned with the personalities of the fans than SF.

He is a very avid fan of SF and fantasy...especially the Unknown/Eddison/Tolkien type and he is almost definitely going to make the Chicon. He will be performing in the Berkeley area for a week about the time of the Westcon and he made some remarks about wanting to cut down for that but being unable to. I hope to take in one of his





— ahaha hahaha!



Just  
Ready