

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS (AND BABY TURTLES) # 2 FAPA # 129; Nov. 1969

All views expressed in these pages are those of the commentator not necessarily that of the sponsor. Your friendly commentator is Peggy Rae Pavlat (or if your name is Bruce Pelz, Peggy Rae McPavlat) of 5709 Goucher Drive; College Park, Maryland; 20740.

Buz, I found the greatest way for loosing weight. I've lost eighteen pounds since the last mailing. His name is Eric Kendall Pavlat.

It's been six weeks now and I'm feeling pretty good. If I could just get organized things would be fine. Bob says that it's normal to be tired and not get much done. But when a day passes and I've accomplished nothing at all that I can point to the next day as having finished I get frustrated. What good does it do to have made the bed the day before? or have emptied the dishwasher? or have taken my turn driving the four kids in the carpool to school and back? All these things any many more must be done, but I get the feeling that I'm standing on a treadmill if I get nothing but this type of chore done. I have been working on one large project recently. I decided that it was time for another fan calendar. I asked artists for work and got back beautiful drawings from George Barr, Bjo, Barbi and Eddie Jones. I'm expecting the others any day. Letters have been going out from here asking for:

- 1) conference dates for the coming year
- 2) birthdates: for anyone known to general fandom; for officials of the group whether known to fandom or not
- 3) publication deadlines, if any; expected publication dates
  - 4) dates of special club events (annual picnic Founders' Day, etc.
- 5) regular club meeting dates (optional: phone number of someone in the area for inquiries about meetings)
- 6) any other events that you feel should be included.

If you are interested and I haven't contacted you, please feel free to send me the data anyway. Until Dec. first I can use the information this year (maybe later) and in any case, if this works out I'll probably continue the calendar each year, Alice and Jay Haldeman are working on this also. We'll have them on sale as of December first. Although if you care to send \$1.00 before then it will not be turned down. If you do send money, please do include your address. I would hate for someone not to get their calendar because they thought 'of course she has our address'. Especially those of you who move around frquently, I would rather have your version of where you live than the FA's version.

I find that I am very excited about the calendar. I've been pretty much of a helper rather than a doer before. I bet Bob is a bit surprised also. Though he has always had a better opinion of me than I do. Besides, there is notheing wrong with not being a prime mover or secret master of fandom.

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I still need one bit of information rather badly for the calendar. The OMPA, APA L, APA 45, etc. deadlines. I have the dates for FAPA and SAPS, but all the others I am missing. Heck, I'm so out of it that I don't even know if the CULT and OMPA still exist. Are there any I've forgotten? If anyone has this information I would appreciate a post card.

Bob was reading the August mailing the last time I looked up, this time all I saw of him was a pair of glasses sitting on the chair. I got up to investigate this strange occurrence and I discovered him sleeping peacefully on the couch. The glasses are still sitting on the chair as though to keep an eye on my progress.

I discovered something while I was up. To get a fire going again one just pokes at it. I never tried it before, and I always was impressed with the magic that Bob exhibited by making a bed of coals and half burnt logs leap into flame. Another illusion shot!

Bob said that I would probably talk about Eric, so I will. There really isn't much to say. He's the easiest baby to get along with that I've ever been around. If you wake him up to play with him or show him off to visitors he will cooperate and be happy, and if you then put him back to bed he will go back to sleep. He knows only two states of existence: sleeping and eating. He is willing to play, if that will make us happy, but it is not his preferred activity. He even sleeps seven or eight hours most nights. Eric is a cute baby. Much cuter than any baby has a right to be until they are several months old. He has a fantastically broad chest for a baby and little tiny hips. He certainly doesn't take after my side of the family. He is a fun baby, in a very quiet way. I'm very glad we had Kathy first instead of the other way around. She wanted to be up all the time. She had a trick of waking up as I put dinner on the table. No matter what time I put it on, there she was! A child of two weeks shouldn't be able to be that precise. She frequently was awake all evening, and Bob got to know her quite well. We often wondered about fathers who say they don't know their children. Now we have one like that. Some evenings go by when Eric doesn't wake up until I get him up to feed him before bedtime (mine) and then goes to sleep while I am nursing him. I try to have him awake when Bob gets home. That way he and Eric can play while I get dinner on the table and Eric can sleep through dinner. This doesn't always work. But even when it doesn't, it's no matter. Eric is wonderfully easy to get along with. He rarely cries, sleeps peacefully with a rather noisy Halloween party going on around him. (I left him in the kitchen - we have a big one - last Friday in his cradle) He didn't wake up until I got him up at midnight to feed him and let numerous females hold him. Kathy was a real ball for a first baby, and Eric is very peaceful and relaxing for a second baby. I think we've been very lucky.

So far Kathy thinks the world rises and sets on Eric. I was expecting her to be jealous or uninterested, but just the reverse has been true. Whenever we go out she accosts strangers and demands: isn't he a cutie?

I had intended to tell you about some of the books that I've read in the last few months. Unfortunately I didn't have enough sense to realize that I wouldn't remember which books I wanted to talk about. I did find a few, a few others I know who wrote or am confident that you will be able to find with very little trouble. I would like to talk about also. Thinking on stencil has many problems. The construction of the last two sentences will attest to that fact.

A Canticle for Libowitz: Miller

Excellent. I want to read it again in five years; I'm sure that he has written a book that will be even more meaningful as I mature. I recommended it to a friend of mine who is planning a course on contemporary literature for her tenth graders. I'd be very interested in what they make of it. I also recommended 'If This Goes On' by Heinlein and 'The Man Who Sold the Moon' also by Heinlein.

Portrait of Jennie: Robert Nathan: published by Knopf

Fantasy at its best. This work stretches the imagination so delicately that one never realizes that the story can't have happened. You are taken to a land so familiar that you never question the action. Highly recommended.

The Group: Mary McCarthy

Don't waste your time or your money. It's poorly written and had nothing to say (that I found) in all those many, many pages. Valley of the Dolls has been branded as pure trash by Marion Breen, among others. I found that to be well written, interesting, and fun for light reading, but then I do like to sit down and read 'bad' books that I'd be too embarrassed to buy myself. Someone apparently brainwashed me. If you enjoy this type of reading occasionally, fine, Valley of the Dolls is fun, but don't waste time on The Group. As Kathy would say, The Group is yuck.

Where Eagles Dare: Alistair MacLean

A roaring good adventure story. Eight allies parachute onto a mountainside behind enemy lines in wartime Germany. Their mission: to rescue an American general before the Nazis can force him to reveal secret D-day plans. The book is not as much of a stereo-type as the plot synopsis.

To Walk the Night: William Sloane: published by Dell

A very strange book. This is one of the few books that is a cross between the mystery story and science fiction. The only other one that I can think of off hand is Needle by Hal Clement. There must be more.

Stand on Zanzibar: John Brunner

I'm currently reading this book. I've about a third of it left to read, but so far I am very favorably impressed. Stand on Z is a little slow getting started, but it picks up the pace nicely. Some of the slowness is necessary to establish a mood and condition the reader for the rest of the book. I feel that the book would have been better if the first 75 pages had been edited down to fifty pages. Skimming works wonders to correct that defect.