

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS (AND BABY TURTLES) November 1980.

Published by Peggy Rae Pavlat, 5709 Goucher Drive, College Park, Maryland, 20740, rather infrequently.

A couple of years ago, in FAPA, I made the comment that if I had several lives to live, not only would I live one exactly as I currently am (I guess I'm pretty lucky, that's still true!), one as a reporter, a something else that I don't remember, and one devoted to religion. That comment generated quite a bit of questions and comments back and forth. This time I'd like to share two pieces with you which may give a flavor of what I'm talking about when I say religion.

Before I share them with you, I guess it's time for an update. The last update was two years ago, if I remember correctly, so you'll only get the tip tops of the update. Last year revolved around Bob's Mom. We found out in November or December that she had to go in the hospital because of cancer. (How interesting, even a year and some months after she died, I still can't talk about her illness with any clarity. She was very, very dear to me. In many ways, she and I were much alike. I am very lucky to have known her for all the years I did.) Our whole family's lives revolved around Moi, as we called Bob's Mom, for nine months. Blessedly, Moi lived ten minutes away from our home and only twenty away from her grandson's; her daughter lived with her. The first two months we made trips to the hospital, not too long a trip for most of us, then from January through August, we went to the nursing home where she stayed. The Doctor told us that she needed to have extensive care throughout the day which meant that neither her daughter or grandson could keep her at their homes and he also said that whoever kept her had to be able to lift her. I gave some thought to trying to keep her at our home, but when I tried to lift her (even as tiny as she had become) I found I just couldn't manage to lift her. Considering the drain upon us as it was, it's probably a good idea that while she was closeby and therefore we could visit her virtually every day, we also had some time away from her. The vacation we took at the end of June and beginning of July was entirely needed. Those of you who have watched someone you love die day by day (sometimes angry and sometimes accepting and sometimes eager) know how that year went. I don't know that I have the skill to share the mental and emotional exhaustion with which we lived those days and weeks and months which we knew would both be over all too soon and not soon enough. There was grief and friendship and glory. In that she truly was and knew she was loved, she lived and died a full and rich experience.

It never ceased to amaze me that during this time the rest of the world insisted upon continuing. Ideas which I had worked on the previous year came to fruition. In January I was appointed to chair a 120 day Mental Health Task Force to determine how the County could serve the population for which there were currently no services in the County. At the time I thought there couldn't be any worse timing! This after eleven months of work (i.e. all but the month before!) There was no way to say "no". Somehow I managed to keep my own head straight enough so that I could chair this group of intelligent, articulate, rather bull-headed people who, for the most part, had never met each other before. (That was one of the reasons for the Task Force, of course.) Some of the recommendations have since been implemented, others are on the agenda and some, of course, won't be accomplished for quite a number of years if at all. Given the inherent frustration of Task Forces, it was a pretty good effort and accomplished an enormous amount.

I don't recommend I try to live that spring again. I might not make it through a second time successfully. I must have had an awful lot of luck going for me as I look back, because I sure didn't have any brains!!! I was working two/three days a week from January through April, Chairing the Task Force briefly described above, chairing the County's Mental Health Advisory Committee (which was why I was asked to chair the Task Force....the Committee had asked for the Task Force to be appointed because it needed to have the input of LOTS of people who simply weren't on the Committee if a plan was to be created which could then be implemented). During this period I was asked to be President of the County League of Women Voters (a two year term). I said no. Then I said, out of the respect for what you're asking, let me think about it for 24 hours, but my answer will then be no. I called them back in 24 hours and asked for another 24 hours, then a second call asking for more time. As the chairman of the nominating committee and I were talking, I told her that if I got to the point where I began thinking "Wouldn't it be fun to....." that I'd seriously consider the job, but that I seriously doubted that that would happen. Much to my surprise, it did indeed happen. And it has been fun to be able to implement lots of ideas! There are enough times when I feel as though a better decision was made because of our League's work that it feels like a really effective way to make changes take place in government. (For those of you who wonder, there are about 10% males and 90% females in our County League of Women Voters.)

Life became considerably less hectic when I finished my term as Chairman of the County Mental Health Advisory Committee, four months after the task force had ended. In the meantime, Moi had died, I had taken one course in sign language and was beginning a second class, and had figured out what I thought my role was as President of the League of Women Voters. The last year has been an exercise in trying to keep from getting involved in anything new....But, first I had to finish up some really neat stuff....I was the floor coordinator at the League of Women Voters of the United States National Convention in May of this year and then coordinated Press Relations for Noreascon Two. Both were exciting and fulfilling and a LOT OF WORK. And it's kind of sad there's nothing like them on my current horizon. As compensation, I've read five books in the last two weeks and even played backgammon with Bob and Missy. At this time, my term as President will be up April 2nd, 1981 (what a fast two years!!!). My role is one of support only in the groups I'm still active in (i.e. I'm membership chairman for the Mental Health Advisory Committee and my term on the Committee will be up in less than one year). It's time to move on to something else. We'll see what in a different issue of this infrequent fanzine.

The first of the two pieces I promised on the last page follows:

"My religion is based upon my desire to help others and to create something useful and of value to mankind. This, and my belief in the scientific approach to all the problems of life, form the road of progress that I try to travel..... my mother's simple philosophy of life has influenced me throughout all the years of my life. She could read and write but had very little formal education. I will repeat her simple words: 'Life is a matter of growing, learning, thinking and doing. The more you learn the better you can think. The better you think the better you can act. You are never too old to learn. Think right and act accordingly. You have two lives to live--your inner life and your outer life. Your inner life is what you are--your character, your honesty, your ambition, your feelings of love, hate, sympathy, anger and others. Your outer life is what you do--your reputation, your appearance and what others think you are. Make your inner life what it ought to be and make your outer life harmonize with your inner life.'

"She used the word growing in a broad sense. In early life you were growing in size. You were always growing in experience. In mid-life you grew in wisdom, power of reasoning and judgment. In the declining years you were simply growing old." -- Dr. Charles Culpepper.

The second is "Seeking Communion" by Russell R. Bletzer from Call to Meditation:

"We unite today in this quiet house to draw sustenance from human fellowship, to renew our faith, and to seek communion with the deep things of the spirit through the common act of worship.

"Within us churn the cross-currents and the conflicts of our daily lives; we would here resolve the turbulence, to find rest for our hearts and inner peace.

"We seek not to flee from the tempests which are the testing and the symbol of human life, but rather to find the harmony of wider vision, the understanding of the whole; and to know that we belong to the fullness of human destiny, that we have our part to play in the great drama of the universe.

"May we increase in wisdom, through meditation and through acquaintance with ideas new and old; may we grow in tolerance, through testing thoughts different from our own; may we deepen our love for all life -- and most especially for human life -- through opening our hearts and sympathies to the hopes, dreams and fears of our neighbors and friends.

"May reverence, and devotion to all that is true, and decent, and beautiful, enrich our worship, sending us forth to the orderly pattern of our lives with fresh clarity of vision, and renewed strength to meet the challenge of our times."

A couple people have mentioned that they wish someone would nominate them for an office within FAPA. To those folk I've explained that in FAPA it is a self-nomination process of people who are willing to do the work. Rather too often it is left to the current officers to generate interest in people's filing (over and beyond the call for people to file which appears in the May Sec.Treas. Report). Please, any of you who have the time and energy to take on that responsibility, do file for office. The time needed depends on the office which you are elected to. President is largely ceremonial and most years an imagination talented enough to come up with four President's Reports for the FA saying that nothing has happened which needs to be reported is sufficient. Vice-President is slightly more tricky, and occasionally quite a bit more tricky. The Ego-boo Poll is the responsibility of the Vice-President. Preparing a ballot which FAPAns will take the time to fill out takes a couple hours of thinking about... I thought we had a "new tradition" a couple of years ago, but I'm afraid that Lester changed the format again so that (at least I found) it's hard to work with.

The OE must reproduce the FA, making sure the FAPA Constitution is in every other mailing, listing the the current fanzines included and their page count, and picking up on the Post-mailings. More to the point, the OE must have the SPACE to collate 68 copies of the mailing (not to mention the assorted extras which usually appear). Every so often a surplus stock offereing must be made by the OE. And of course the OE has the obvious job of mailing the packages, along with the less obvious jobs of addressing the packages, buying the jiffy bags, lugging the stuff to the post office and stapling the bags shut. ((Bob liked this job; I didn't! It is the one job that his name alone appears on the FAPA ballot when one of us files. I'm not about to suggest to him he not do something like that if he wants to/thinks it's fun/no one else has run and he thinks he should, but I've told him that he's on his own with that one job. Other people have hosted grand

FAPA collating parties.))

The President also appoints a teller for the election.

The Sec-Treas handles the money, counts the pages and accurately records the number of pages which a member still owes for his/her activity. Sends the Sec-Treas report to the OE in enough time so that it can be included in the FA, invites new members to join as they reach the top of the waiting list and there is a vacancy. Notes credentials, keeps the financial records and issues a financial report for each FA. The call for candidates to file for FAPA office is included by the Sec-Treas in the May Sec-Treas report.

I encourage you who have never (or not during the last year or two) done so to read the FAPA Constitution. It is included in every other FA. The duties of each officer are included in that document.

MIKE GLICKSOHN Has it always been the rule that in Ontario jurors are drawn from the lists of property tax payers and hence you have to own your own home if you're ever going to be called to serve on a jury? In theory, a jury in this country is of ones' peers...the League of Women Voters in my County is trying to get the State League to do a study (in which we would participate, of course) of jury selection and the grand jury process....the decision won't be made until May, but I'm hoping that this study will be adopted. It's interesting to hear a little bit of the system in Ontario.

HARRY WARNER Oh, how I wish that it were true that voluminous readers become reasonable spellers. While you're right that I usually recognize a misspelling by the fact that the word "looks wrong", that doesn't let me also know what the correct spelling is. There have been all too many times when I've substituted another word for the original word (which I could not find in the dictionary -- because I couldn't spell it well enough to find it in the dictionary.) The other way out is to call Bob at the office...but it really feels unwise to call him more than once a week with the plea that I can't find the word I'm trying to spell. (words such as ensconce are the kind I'm talking about.....)

It's pretty hard for me to believe that I have now actually read both the May and the August mailings....no, not every word, but as much as I wanted to, which was a fair amount (80% or so). Obviously unless you all pull a Mike Glicksohn on me, I'll never get points on the egoboo poll for the best mailing comments, since the above are my "comments" on two mailings. On the other hand, I was fascinated with some of what appeared in the mailings. The discussion on religion and on the jury selection system seemed a bit too strong to be merely a "coincidence" to me. I don't remember either subject coming up (i.e. in anything I actually read) in the February mailing which was the last one I'd read before I did the first three pages of this fanzine.

See you all (in a manner of speaking) in February.