

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS (AND BABY TURTLES) is published by Peggy Rae Pavlat, of 5709 Goucher Drive, College Park, MD 20740. This issue is intended for the November 1987 FAPA mailing.

The Anniversary Issue of FAPA was/is somewhat overwhelming. It will be interesting to see if some other members thought that not enough material was submitted. There seem to be lots of folks who wish this weren't the elephant's graveyard (a little too literally here during the last couple of years!) The measured pace of FAPA is so comfortable for me - I can't imagine devoting the time to an APA where each mailing was as large as the anniversary issue - or where participation was needed in each mailing.

I have read the February and May mailings, but have only just begun making my way through the anniversary issue. All the mailing comments I noted will be a secret for months and months (if not forever), since I am out in beautiful Des Plaines, Illinois (the sighs of wistfulness which are heard when I say I'm flying to Chicago again disappear when I am kind enough to point out that I'll be staying in Des Plaines ... 40 minutes from Chicago).

In any case, my FAPA mailings don't make good traveling companions (they're too heavy), so the mailing comments will have to wait - or this issue will have to wait.

So what, you may be asking, are you doing in beautiful downtown Des Plaines? About a year ago I began training OSHA employees how to use microcomputers. Working with folks who have, often, never used a computer before and helping them to learn that computers aren't all that scary and that a lot of repetitive work can be done rapidly and easily with computers. The OSHA Training Institute is located in Des Plaines. (OSHA is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor.)

Throughout the years I've been asked if I'm a teacher again and again, and until recently, the answer was always "no". So it's interesting to do the work which apparently lots of people thought I was doing for years and years.

I find that I like teaching just fine. What I like the very best is when the students (who often are coming to class reluctantly) say "I didn't know that using a computer could be fun!" Each class has a different personality and each class teaches me something else about the system.

The biggest question/frustration that I have is that the students listen with various degrees of efficiency. This means that while lots of repetitions are necessary for some students, other students will do the same commands a second time, because they don't note that I'm repeating something I already said - and then they will get confused by doing the same command

twice. Yet after two or three repetitions, some students are still sitting there waiting like a bump on a line until I walk around to each one of them and tell them to carry out the process which I've already asked them to do twice. I'm finding that hard to deal with - I think I used to be more patient with these problems than I am now.

None the less, I do enjoy the training and dealing with the students and the other trainers.

My vacation this year was wonderfully quiet and peaceful. We went to New England (when most of our friends went to England) and didn't try to do much of anything. Reading, loafing and haunting book stores were my main occupations. It took seven days before I finally began to relax. A week later, when I had to return to work, I no longer was trying to go at a thousand miles an hour. It felt much better. But I certainly was not interested in returning to situations where I was under pressure.

It seems as though I've been dreadfully busy for years and years. Now that mother & Bill's estates are almost settled and I was on vacation long enough to get some perspective, I'm working on maintaining a balance between getting things done and having time for socializing and for alone time.

Reading has become a major time eater in my life. It's the Great Escape. I've been reading lots of science fiction, mysteries and historical fiction. Favorite authors recently discovered are Susan Howatch and Dick Francis.

Talk about running out of time inconveniently! See you next mailing!

A CRIME IN SPRINGFIELD

Reporter (or Reading Between the LINES)

1 SPRINGFIELD, IL. DEC 6. LAST NIGHT, THE HOSTAGE
I love this city, but I wish they would move me to
BEING HELD BY THREE ROBBERS WAS SURRENDERED, AFTER
Chicago. Nothing ever happens in this city, only
5 ONE OF THE CRIMINALS WAS FATALLY WOUNDED BY A
routine burglaries and simple shootings. At least
POLICEMAN'S BULLET. THE CRIMINAL (NAME UNKNOWN) IS
I made it to this department, instead of being told
STILL AT LARGE, BUT THEIR LEADER, HAROLD M. ARTHUR,
10 to cover a dumb parade. I wish they would make me
IS NOW IN CAPTIVITY. THE HOSTAGE, SARAH WILLIAMS,
a foreign correspondent. I could write an amazing
WAS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL LAST NIGHT AND IS
article, I really could, but I need a better story
15 REPORTED TO BE UNHARMED.
than this one. Damn.

Editor

1 What's with these kids nowadays?
(Change that to "A HOSTAGE WAS FREED
AFTER POLICE FATALLY WOUNDED ONE OF
HER THREE CAPTORS.") All they're
5 interested in is excitement, popularity,
and money. (Change that to "THEIR
LEADER, HAROLD M. ARTHUR, WAS CAUGHT
AND ARRESTED BY STATE POLICE. THE
THIRD CRIMINAL IS STILL AT LARGE.")
10 I've got to get home; get some sleep.
Ask Ruth (Blast) Ms. Kramer to decide
where to put this clip...and decide on a
title. (Oh, she isn't "UNHARMED," she's
"IN GOOD CONDITION.") Got to get home.
15 Ms. Kramer, could you finish this for me?
Thanks, love.

Uungh. Got to get up now, read the paper, get some caffeine.
(Shush, buzz!) Hmm. There's Geraldine. Good morning, love.
You want coffee? What, dear? Oh, how did I sleep?

Reader

- 1 What is this, when a
Woman is held
Captive by three
Criminals, and all is said in
- 5 One paragraph? I can't see
How the editor got such an
Unclear article into this paper.
How did that man escape?
How was the leader captured?
- 10 How did the man get
Killed?
How do people...ordinary people...get away with that?
God, I have more talent than they do.
I wonder what I will (no!) Would do...

Escapee

- 1 I can't believe they caught him.
He always knew what to do.
I've got to free him.
Then we can be safe again.
- 5 Who's there?
No one.
He could tell me that.
I wish Jesse hadn't died.
I wish Marco hadn't been caught.
- 10 I wish I'd listened.
To Marco.
To anyone.
Who's there?
A rabbit.
- 15 He could tell me that.
He'd tell me that, and yell, and smile, and talk.
He'd tell me not to be afraid.
Marco, I've got to find you.
Free you.
- 20 We'd be strong.
No one'd know we were on the lam.
I wish I'd listened to Mom.
Who's there?

Prisoner

1 Uungh.
He ran away.
Oof.
That bastard.

5 Rrrah.
All I can do now is...
Uumph.
Lie here and work out...
Arrgh.

10 And imagine that I'm hurting...
Uungh.
Him.

Whew.

Uungh.

15 He ran away.
Oof.
That bastard.
Rrrah...

Rookie

1 Jesse's dead.
By myself, and me alone.
Me, Marty Wallace! I shot him!
With my wonderful little

5 Gun, I shot him.
He aimed, he fired, he died.
I shot him!

Partner

1 The kid shot himself.
Marty says he killed him, but
Jesse shot himself.
I should have been back there.

5 How should I've known he'd kill himself?
Dammit, we even had to lie to the press about
It, for Jesse's parents.
I can't take this...

Full Circle

1 SPRINGFIELD, IL. DEC 8. LAST NIGHT, A POLICEMAN
Now, this is more like it! A real story, with
WITH SENIORITY AT THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
intrigue, and some unanswered questions. I'm glad
5 KILLED HIMSELF, APPARENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE
they assigned this story to me, because maybe if it's
RECENT KIDNAPPING OF SARAH WILLIAMS. HIS PARTNER,
read in Chicago, they'll call me and offer me a job.
MARTIN WALLACE, HAD LITTLE INSIGHT INTO THE SUICIDE,
10 God, I wonder if there's something that isn't revealed
BUT SAYS THAT THERE WILL BE A FULL INVESTIGATION.
yet...now, that would get me into the Tribune...