



Sean Dwyer

THE PROPER BOSKONIAN #21

The Proper Boskonian is the monthly Journal of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc., and the J. Mark Anderson Fanzine Production Company. The Editor is J. Mark Anderson, who can be reached c/o Mike Salar, 393 Main St., Concord, MA 01742. Special thanks to Claire Graham (Nesfa Clerk) and Dave Anderson (Nesfa Committee on Corporata Ethics Investigator).

ANDERSON, MARK: MY WORDS

A short issue this time, folks; the Reagan Administration cutbacks have already affected the amount of material for this month's PB -- let's hope all you closet liberals will respond by contributing interesting items for next month's issue (it is your civic duty!) (Angered conservatives will be given equal space for their views, as will any bewildered readers who are having trouble following this incoherent appeal for contributions).

This month I am pleased to introduce a new fanzine review column by Harry J.N. Andruschak, entitled:

WRITTEN ON A TRIPEWRITER

A fanzine review column from Harry J.N. Andruschak for The Proper Boskonian.

That Richard E. Geis is an important factor in fanzine fandom is quite obvious...over ten Hugos. Science Fiction Review is in many ways the ideal fanzine of the 1930's and 1940's fans. That it conflicts with the ideals of the 1950's fans ((loose a lot of money pubbing your zine)) has been one of the hilarious outcomes in fannish history.

But Geis also pubs other zines... and lately is doing a rag called Conspiracy Newsletter. It is the fannish equivalent of the National Enquirer. It publishes unmitigated garbage, and hopes its readers will swallow it. Knowing Geis, some will.

This reader didn't. Bullshit is bullshit.

Issue #2, dated May 31, had on its first page a statement about the construction of the Space Shuttle launch facilities at Vandenburg Air Force Base. CONSPIRACY!!! Geis makes as if he was breaking to the reader a tremendous news story...the Air Force will use Vandenburg for launching M*I*L*I*T*A*R*y missions!!! What a story!!!

What a pile of Shit. The fact that Vandenburg was to be used for military use of the Shuttle was planned back in 1972...for had not the military agreed to use the Shuttle system, it never would have been funded. It has always been a part of the Shuttle system that Vandenburg would be used for Polar Orbiting Payloads...Civilian Landsats, military payloads.

It has always been planned that Shuttle operations from Vandenburg will eventually use a separate Mission Control Center for the military flights. I suppose Geis will make a big deal of this in a few months. He probably will go bananas about the "conspiracy" to uprate the Shuttle by using a separate liquid booster under the main tank. None of this is secret...it has all been published in Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine...but you can be sure that Geis will make it so.

A pathetic zine, all in all.

((Anderson again. I should note that the views expressed in PB are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the views of NESFA, et al. I will also note that Harry publishes an interesting annual genzine, Intermediate Vector Bosons, of which issue #3 has just appeared. It is available for trade, \$2.00 or "the usual" from Harry at P.O. Box 606, La Canada-Flintridge, California 91011, USA. I particularly enjoyed Robert Bloch's article on Surrogate in '58.

And in lieu of a formal book-review this month (we should have a number in next month's issue, don't you know), let me just highly recommend John Kennedy Toole's A Confederacy of Dunces (Grove Press Paperback, \$3.50). It is enormously funny and very entertaining, and does afford insight into the behavior of some of those odder fen you may have encountered at an S.F. Convention at some point. Well worth purchasing.

See you next month.))

"Perhaps the most unsuccessful funeral ever held was that of an Oriental missionary called Schwartz. The service was held in Delhi at the end of the last century and culminated in the congregation singing the favorite hymn of the recently deceased Dr. Schwartz. The mourners were surprised during the final verse to hear a voice from the coffin joining in."