

RACHEE 8

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For the 14th N<sup>o</sup>APA Mailing  
September 1962

#### AT THE THIRTEENTH HOUR

I had decided that I would miss the mailing, in spite of the fact that I've had a zine in every mailing since the first. There was just too much to do when I got back from Chicago to allow me to sit down and do my last minute mailing comments and the usual stuff that goes into RACHEE. But the mailing deadline came and passed, and I was informed that our Official Editor was too lazy to get the mailing sent out immediately, and was holding it for about a week. (Also, he was holding it for several promised zines to arrive.) So I changed my mind and will attempt to put a minimal entry into this 14th mailing, if only to keep my string of N<sup>o</sup>APAZines intact. And how are you, Walter Coalet?

I suppose the mailing will come out this weekend — today is Wednesday, September 19th — and if it doesn't we ought to blitz the OE. Frankly, I doubt that we will do so, even if the mailing is a month late. Last December's "ambush" style of blitzkrieg was fun and a good joke, but I don't think it would be worth another one. Perhaps one of these days we'll have an OE who'll get the damn mailings out on time, before N<sup>o</sup>APA finally folds its zines and quietly fades away.

#### A HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE THOUGHT ABOUT T.A.F.F. NOMINEES

Or maybe even two of them, H.S.Thoughts, that is.

I've been voting in the TAFF elections since the 1958 race, and have come out with a score of 60% when it comes to backing winners. I'm extremely selfish when it comes to backing one of the British candidates — I back whichever one I most want to meet. If I back a loser, I can still enjoy meeting the winner — having supported Eddie Jones in this most recent election, I can whole-heartedly say that I'm glad it was Ethel who beat him. (Eddie should still run again some time.)

The problem is different when it's an American fan going to England. In this case I've probably already met the candidates, and I won't meet them at the con anyway. So unless a close friend is running, my criteria are (1) Who can write the best TAFF report, and (2) Who has done most for fandom. And being selfish, the first outweighs the second.

With this in mind, I've been looking around for candidates for the 1964 West-to-East Trip. The only one I can find offhand is Bill Donaho. None of my close friends are likely to run (though we're still trying to talk Sneary into the idea), or are likely to get elected if they did (with, of course, a few exceptions like Rick.) When it comes to writing the report, I don't know who of the possible candidates could best do it. I have seen little of Donaho's writing (mostly articles for INNUENDO); mostly, his zines are full of other people's writings. For that matter, there are very few fans these days who do write con reports and such reportorial things. Eney and Breen wrote the only two Season reports of any consequence; I hope there are more Chicon III reports (I hope to have one of my own written for either SAPS or OMPA.)

Now who's done anything for fandom lately? An easier choice would probably be to decide who's done less to fandom, what with all the lawsuits, feuds and the like flying about. I may be unduly cynical, but if I am there's an easy remedy: someone else go ahead and tell me all about the fans who have done things for fandom to such an extent that they should be nominated for TAFF.

Actually, I would like to hear what others have to say about possible candidates for the U.S.-to-Britain TAFF race. I have few opinions, definite or otherwise, on the subject right now.

On the other hand, I have a rock-bottom opinion on the next Britain-to-U.S.

trip candidate: Arthur Thomson. Atom has refused to stand for TAFF several times, but I am hoping that a campaign of bombarding him with requests will convince him that we want to see him over here in 1964. (To start with, I'm sending an airletter petition with 25-30 LASPS signatures. Anyone who'd like to help, just write Atom and ask him to stand for TAFF in the next election.)

#### A very BRIEF GLANCE THROUGH THE MAILING

It's lucky I'm already a member of NAPA, and I know that the members can turn out good papers some of the time. Otherwise, the sample bundle that went through NAPA this last mailing wouldn't have done much to get me to join. But at least POLYSTICH and PASTIME PRINTER are rather good. I wonder how many NAPAs joined as a result of this? The only ones I know are members of NAPA are Lichtman, Bowers, Fitch, McInerney, and myself. And possibly Patten.

There'll be no APAactivity chart this time around, as I haven't heard from several of the ones I'm not in -- SFPA, NAPA, ~~APA~~ X. I'll double up again next time, maybe, and let Ed Meskys scream about it.

I'm rather curious as to where Dave Hulcn picked up his affinity for the Norse myth titles -- and the ones from the Wrong Side of the ~~YACHT~~ Bridge, at that. I've always been fond of the Norse mythology, greatly preferring it to the Graeco-Roman, Egyptian, or Babylonian pantheons -- and Loki (whom I generally think of in his "Uncle Fox" rôle) has long been my favorite. Probably my Germanic background coming to the fore.

Harrell, you'll find that (untitled) poem of mine regarding fandon going to hell, in the Willish of WRR. It originally appeared in Jack Harness's CRAPzine. Nice that someone liked it. (And that someone can remember it after almost a year.)

Harness, it will be quite easy to bind DJEHEL/JUNGLE in the mailing by stapling it to a backing sheet. Then it can be read by lifting it up. Nice of you to run it in that convenient fashion.

Occasionally, Ed Baker, you might read through a mailing or two of NAPA. Then you would avoid making comments like the one about my always mimeographing the APAactivity charts. The double chart was ditteed in mailing 12. Esperantists delenda sunt.

I suspect that the term "Fagghead" has lost most of its strength through indiscriminate use by fans who can't think of anything else to call someone they don't like. Case in point: CONSTIPATION vs. Deindorfer vs. the Seth Johnson-Art Hayes-etc. group. If Gary's bit in LIGHTHOUSE was in poor taste (And I agree that it was), then it is in equally poor taste to try retaliation in the same style of name-calling. You characters ought to know better.

As for my putting a SPELEOEM-type zine through NAPA -- or through OMPA or FAPA, for that matter, I have neither the time nor the inclination. I happen to prefer SAPS to the rest of the APAs, and I make an effort to put my best material through SAPS. For the rest, whatever is at hand when it comes time to do the zine will go into the mailing. NAPA, quite frankly since you asked, isn't worth it. For OMPA and FAPA I generally save whatever general material I get from someone else, and include it there, while SAPS gets almost all of my original writings. And I'm not about to run SPELEOEM thru several APAs. I send it in trade for gszines that I get, but otherwise, the only way you can get it is to join SAPS.

A plague on Lichtman and his salmon duper paper.

I would appreciate one of you New Yorkers sending me Elliot Shorter's address. I got it from him at Chicon, but managed to lose the notebook between Chi and L.A.

**MOST SUPERLATIVE ITEM IN THE FIRST 13 MAILINGS:** "Sounding of the Horn" by Dave Hulcn in MEGALOSCOPE 4. Ron Ellik and I have been discussing the "Legends of the Sleepers" lately. There are quite a few more than Barbaraessa and Arthur, you know. But the story is excellent, and could be expanded into something saleable, I think. Perhaps I'll go into the "Legends of the Sleepers" more thoroughly one of these days...probably for SAPS.

SEE YOU NEXT MAILING (with more of a zine).

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