



THE  
RAMBLING FAP 20

FAPA 90 - FEB 1960

GREGG CALKINS

Yes, kiddies, this is The Rambling Fap 20, just like it says on the cover, and if this turns out to be the 90th mailing, as also predicted, why then I've made it into four consecutive mailings for the second time in my FAPA career. Goshwow, as I used to say in my younger days and am still prone to say in moments of extreme excitement, I am tremendously impressed even if you are not.

One other thing that tickles my fancy is that with this 90th mailing I have been a member for thirty-one quarterly bundles' worth, slightly more than one-third of the organization's existence. Ye gads, it doesn't seem that long! FAPA stretches all the way back to fannish antiquity...why, if this keeps up I'll be an old fan before I know it. So let's get on with the mailing comments for the 89th mailing before I become too feeble to pound my typewriter any longer.

THE FANTASY AMATEUR      Good grief, FAPA must be in the midst of a publishing up-swing or something...437 pages for mailing 87, 507 pages for 88, 632 pages for 89...where will it stop? At that rate, the 90th mailing should contain 812 pages and the 91st--well, let's not even think of it, shall we? Can't say that I'm sorry to see larger bundles these days, though, even if postage rates are ferocious. ## I hate to add my approval to the "FAPAn spirit in Kicking Ted White When He's Down" movement--can't you picture good old Ted prostrate in the gutter somewhere?--but I have little sympathy for people who run for office with little or no regard for the responsibilities attendant thereto. That missing \$10 wasn't intended to be used as grocery money no matter how hard up the Whites were, no matter how much I sympathize with their poverty--for two years, from '56 to early '59, my wife and I were both attending college on little or no outside income other than the GI bill and what we could earn in the summers and things got pretty sticky at times, so we know how it can be---... I seem to have gotten lost here. Anyhow, Andy, the thing I was trying to say is that I approve of your withholding Ted's mailing, so you can chalk up my moral support at least. If Ted disapproves of your "illegal" handling of his mailing perhaps you can arrange to 'forget' to send it to him, as he did when he was OE, or else you could complain that since you yourself are scraping along on a marginal existence and have somehow spent all of the FAPA money on your own groceries you cannot, alas, afford to send out Ted's bundle. You had just enough for everybody else's but not Ted's. So sad. I'm sure Ted will appreciate the situation and stop complaining about the illegality of it all. ## I note with approval the continued upward creep of some very fine names on the waiting list. Incidentally, I think this response to the FA by wl'ers should be mandatory, not subject to the whims of the S-T of the day. Besides being a damned fine way to trim off deadwood before it gets entrenched in the membership, additionally it helps speed the otherwise interminable rise of truly interested persons far down on the list. This time, for instance, if all of last time's non-responders failed to write in, Berry, say, would jump from #35 to #22, normally a wait of several year's time. Moreover, I think this should be an every issue response, not every other issue... most interested fans write a letter of comment on other fanzines they receive and in the case of the FA a simple postcard would be sufficient. ## I think we're making a bad mistake with this waiting list, anyhow. If the constitutional rule that applicants to the FAPA must show "proof of his interest in fantasy amateur activity" was observed more closely we wouldn't have all of the trouble we do with people like Myers and Wetzel and Lance. I voted for the wl expulsion rule last time, certainly, but to my mind it wasn't important in the cases of any of the three persons just mentioned. Section 2.2 of the constitution already applied. ## The Egoboo Poll, in my opinion, should be changed just a wee bit but I'm uncertain as to how. For instance, to me a "publication" is a particular magazine. Some FAPAns put out entirely different magazine titles every mailing. If an editor is a person who correlates the works of others and a publication is a particular title, how do we vote for these other people? Put out a "Best FAPA Publisher" category? For instance, if I vote for BOBOLINGS as best publication and skip Bob in the "editor" category because he does not "correlate the work of others" much, how do I indicate my deep approval for all of his other miscellaneous publications during the year? How many "editors" in that sense of the word are there in FAPA, anyhow? There's a missing category in here somewhere as far as I'm concerned.

Pardon me--I thought I was through with the Poll but I see I have a couple other comments. For one, what is an "article"? Is that anything that is not fiction? Or are humorous pastiches something else entirely? Why is the "article writer" category distinct from that of the "fiction writer" with still a third category for humor? Shouldn't both the article and the fiction writers be lumped into one category, that of "writer" and then add a distinguishing class for humorous writers if we so desire? But if there is a class for humor, shouldn't there also be one for serious writing? Or does the all-embracing term "writer" cover the serious side? To my mind there should be only the five categories: (1) art, (2) poetry, (3) mailing comments, (4) serious writing of any kind, article or fiction, and (5) humorous writing of any kind, article or fiction (non-British readers may cross out the extra 'u' in humor). Or am I taking the wrong attitude about all this?

AMATEUR'S JOURNAL      Farmers of America you need not worry. No matter what you do or how you do it, the American taxpayer will support you in high style. Always keep this one shining thought in your minds: you have your hard-won socialism now while the rest of the world is still struggling to get theirs.

OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL      Count me in for a strong "second the motion" vote, Larry-- but I see by the latest SF TIMES there is no need. New York has withdrawn their ideas for a national con, although Taurasi still grumbles in his beard about "quitters" and the like. Nice to see you New Yorkers on the list taking a sensible attitude, though.

SAND IN THE BEER      Much appreciated. Can't FAPA somehow arrange to get more of this type of thing on a regular basis?

OOLONG      Noted and read. Hi, Bob.

TO WM DANNER ESQ      This letter looks fine, Bill...too bad you can't use the office multilith all of the time. Luck with fixing the flatbed.

FANMARK GREETING CARDS      Wonderful! These go into my "permanent" file. More in the near future, please?

HUGO GERNSBACK: etc      Very nice, very interesting, Sam.

AD INTERIM      This business of last year's news is supposed to be pretty dull, but I always find baseball interesting, no matter what the season. Guess we all got caught out on our limb pulling for the White Sox to win the series, didn't we? LA was not to be denied. ## Salt Lake City won (yes, won!) first place in the Pacific Coast League, thanks, and I was tickled pink at the news. I faunch for the spring to arrive. ## I drown my sorrows somewhat with pro football, I hasten to add--don't care much for University football except for my own alma mater. Watched the Baltimore Colts--my choice--whup the NY Giants for the pro title last week, as a matter of fact. That Unitas is the greatest player I've ever seen. ## I can't stand basketball, oddly enough. It's just as well...from ~~January~~ to April I'm too busy doing income tax work to do much else.

VANDY      Reading through some back issue sf mags the other night, I came across the June 1952 issue of F&SF with Manly Wade Wellman's "The Desrick On Yandro" ...could this be the source for the name of your subzine? The same story also mentioned the song "Vandy." I'm especially curious about Yandro because the main character in the story--aside from John, of course--hardly seems like the type you would wish to choose as a namesake. ## I don't recall at the moment, but I believe my quoted \$1.26/ream price for Twil-Tone was in twenty ream lots. ## Of course this has nothing to do with VANDY, but I'd just like to mention to the readership that I am suffering--perhaps that's not the right word--from the most interesting cold at the moment. My throat is only moderately sore and I don't really feel sick at all, but every so often, say a half hour or so, I get light-headed for a few seconds. This certainly qualifies for one of the cheapest drunks I've ever been on--and, I might add, also seems to be an excellent state in which to read the FAPA mailing. Like the man says, you don't have to be crazy but it sure helps.

The Rambling Pap IV

WRAITH      You understand that I'm still pretty much a novice when it comes to hand-gun shooting, the bulk of my experience being with the military .45--a weapon, by the way, I dearly loved, despite the derogatory comments of others as to its accuracy or lack of same--but I've been shooting my .357 magnum a bit since I got it last fall. Not too much--shells are expensive and I haven't been able to afford to go into handloading yet--but I'm getting the feel of it. ('S a single-action Ruger Blackhawk, Wrai, in case I hadn't mentioned it before.) Last time I was out I shot some .357's for the first time (at \$5/ per box I won't shoot many) and all I can say is: WOW! First time up I set up some cans, notably a Prestone can, about fifty feet away and blazed away at it with no noticeable results. I thought I was missing so I moved closer and set up another target--this time a 6' post that was nearby on the ground which I propped up by placing some rocks around its base. "Blam" went another shot, with no immediate result. As I was standing there glaring at the post, wondering what the heck I was doing wrong, it slowly toppled over. When I went up to inspect it--I really was half convinced the wind blew it over--there was the roundest, neatest hole you ever saw right in the exact center of the post. Like, man, that slug was going so fast that the post hadn't even been sure it was hit and decided to fall over just in case. This decided me to inspect the Prestone can I had been shooting at first. I'd bet that a .22 short would have knocked it over but not the mag...no sir, it just punched nice neat holes in both sides of the can and went its merry way in a hell of a big hurry. I was impressed no end. ## Speaking of the 1860 model Army Colt .44--which you were--can you tell me something I've always wanted to know, Wrai? Why, since this gun is so popular still as a cap and ball, hasn't some enterprizing soul produced a modern gun similar in design and all but chambered for modern cartridges? I'd love to have one, myself. Surely the original patents can't be holding things back...possibly I'm overestimating the market for such a product? But personally I think the old circa 1860 Colts were among the most beautiful handguns ever designed and I'd love to have one. ## Congrats on winning second place in the shoot. I may up and join the University Gun Club one of these days, myself, now that I own a pistol.

THETA      Liked the cover very much, Jack. ## Also particularly enjoyed "Soliloquy by an elder god" and the layout for that page.

SHIPSIDE      Very interesting, particularly Perdue. Too bad it's so short. ## Did Bjo ever think seriously of illustrating a children's book? Her illos for "Search For A Hero" are wonderful and I'm positive she could make a go of it professionally, particularly in the children's field.

A FANZINE FOR GER STEWARD      Nice, particularly the artwork, but inspiring no comment from this direction. Sports cars are too expensive for me...for that matter, so is almost any car. I drive a '50 Chev, myself, with little hope for anything newer in the near future.

INVOLUTIA      Much as I hate to admit it, that joke in Warner's mailing comments was the best variation on that particular theme I have ever seen. I don't know if it's original with you or if I've just led a sheltered life, but it was the first time I'd seen it and I thought it pretty funny. ## Maybe it isn't the cold after all...just looking at these mailing comments I get light-headed again. And you say "never again" this issue--how come? Couldn't you just taper off to a reasonable amount instead of going to one extreme or the other? ## I think I must like Dixie because of the 'wild' sound or something because I've never cared much for what is generally called jazz or cool jazz. But then I seldom analyze my tastes in music, food, books and otherwise...I like what I like and what I dislike I don't care for, it's as simple as that. Quality, or lack of it, doesn't seem to affect my feelings for Dixie, even among various players. For instance, I have two records by an obscure group that I enjoy very much even though there are a couple of places on each that even my tin ear records as less than perfect; whereas I don't enjoy nearly as much my two records by the Dukes of Dixieland where every cat in the group is a

## The Rambling Fap V

bloody virtuoso and every note accordingly perfect. So it isn't quality I enjoy in Dixie, necessarily, but something else. Whatever it is, it starts my foot tapping and my mouth smiling. I can't say that about any other kind of music. Or anything else, for that matter.

A FANZINE FOR...MOST EVERYBODY My desire when I finally get a steady job after graduation and start thinking about buying a house is to be able to afford one with about forty acres of woodland around it and room enough for a horse or two. I think it would be nice, particularly for the kids I hope to have someday, to be able to have a couple of horses around and relatively unlimited territory in which to roam. With that much land, too, I could afford to set up a nice target range and all sorts of other interesting items like that. I never want to live in a city if I can help it...I hate the thought of driving to work every day but for a nice country place it would be worth it. The house doesn't have to be much, just so there is some land around it and no immediate neighbors. ## Your memories of the good old days are interesting but I might point out one thing in connection with them...in that ABDick still puts out good stencils for \$2.35 a quire and possibly less. I use 1160's, myself, at the above quoted price...add 50¢ if you want the film topped variety...and I believe some of the other varieties (1260 et al) are cheaper still. They are good stencils...as a matter of fact, I have never used any other kind of stencil in my eight years of fan publishing. ## I always enjoy your writing when you get on one of these "good old days" kicks. More.

WILD PUMBLES Yes, I'd be proud to have a set of those Palomar color slides... what, pray tell, is meant by "the usual sort of duplicate-color-slide price"? I hope to get some sort of slide projector early this year--perhaps even by the time you read this--and one thing I would like is a set of astronomical color slides. A couple of years ago when I was taking an astronomy class and got to know one of the physics professors rather well he offered to let me come down to his office some time and look through the physics department collection, so I suppose I will go do that one of these days--I think he still remembers me. Dr Kadesch is the name, Andy...perhaps you've heard of him? Writes quite an excellent series of popular scientific articles for the local paper, astronomical and otherwise. ## Also, when I was in San Francisco this summer and stopped by the local observatory I found some color slides of Bonestell paintings which look very nice when viewed through a hand viewer and I'd imagine they'd look even better when projected. But, getting back to the subject, did you ever find the address for those color slides? And would you like to recommend some other astronomical color slides for people like me? I could use some suggestions.

DRIFTWOOD Interesting but inspiring no particular comment this time...except I wish you'd stay at one address for a while so I'd be sure which one is right. At present I have three addresses for you, all probably wrong.

PHANTASY PRESS I believe I mentioned last mailing in my comments to someone the significance of the Plato Jones cover of yours a couple mailings ago...the one where the law was putting the arrest on a culprit who stood sadly staring at his saddled horse, saying "you'd never have caught me if it hadn't been raining." It's just my interpretation, of course, but it's always been my impression that there was just about nothing else in the world a cowboy hated to do than climb into a wet saddle and ride. Right, Wrai?

EYETRACKS Hey! A Coswazine I can read! Best mailing comments I've seen you do, Walt...by far the best laid out and easiest to read. Your earlier non-stop-paragraphing or whatever it was left me bewildered after half a dozen lines. ## You make several good points in regards to TRFap--perhaps beginning with next issue I should try running some artwork here and there and make a sharper break between my mailing comments and just ramblings in general and see what happens. Thanks for the suggestions.

The Rambling Fap VI

GEMZINE Gem, you have finally realized what ails you. I refer, of course, to your startling admission that: "...attempting to read another fan's mag ...I discovered that...after a few pages...I found my eyes passing over the words without picking up the meaning." Had you but realized, this is what we were trying to tell you all along. ## Well, well, time comes almost full circle...the enclosed N3F application blank in this GEMZINE is the second one you've given me. The first was in Chicago at the 1952 convention and as I remember I made the blank into a paper airplane and flew it out of the seventh-floor window of the convention hotel. I regret that I am not now in Chicago to do the same with this one. ## Nice to know that you consider a four-year suspension of a doctor's license to practice "a token gesture of disapproval." Of course, it took that doctor a good many years to earn that license and quite probably he has not had time to train for any other skills, so if he has become accustomed to eating during the years he was practicing medicine it might go a little hard on him during the four years he and his family will be fasting. But, after all, like you say, what's a little token thing like that, anyhow?

THE CAMBRIDGE SCENE Interesting.

IBIDEM Those Canadian laws are fascinating...makes me feel a bit better about Utah, but only slightly. I guess I'm getting used to it, though--I remember that half a dozen years back I used to be in some uproar or another about the idiotic out-dated Utah laws most of the time, but in recent years I can recall but one or two periods of similar disgust. Give me another couple of years and I'll be so brainwashed that I won't even realize the extent to which my rights have been usurped by this lousy state. And before you ask me why I stay in Utah when it's such a miserable state, I'll tell you: I'm already a resident, considerably involved as a student at the University of Utah and tuition there is cheaper, relatively, than most educational institutions in this country. Besides, my in-laws live nearby and they are the best doggoned bridge partners in the world...that point alone is going to make for a pretty rough decision when I graduate and the time comes to move or decide not to move. ## Oog! That "purple papal heater" pun!

CELEPHAIS In your comments to Warner about special treatment given the church by the supposedly nonpartisan government, I am reminded to tell you that one extra condition of non-availability for the draft aside from being 4F or in school or married and with sixteen kids, etc, is to be on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon to you). Oddly enough, this church is specified and no other. Either Catholics, et al, do not go on missions or else they do not have the lobby in Washington that the Mormon's do. ## "Myers was dropped because he did not conform to the rules of the organization...if he had followed the rules he would still be in." Perhaps, but if the FAPA officials had followed the rules when he applied for membership, he would never have gotten in in the first place. Just consider this another plug for the "More Credentials In Credentials" movement.

ANYTHING BOX and BUNDLE-STIFF(S) But Marion, when I had my tonsils out I really lived on cokes (I suppose the cola people would insist that I capitalize that, but what the hell) and ice cream. Not because they did much to ease my throat wounds but because I liked both and it was an excellent chance to get an unlimited supply of both. Actually, the cokes helped some but the only real help when the pain became bad was aspirin. I didn't swallow them...dissolved them in water and then drank the mixture slowly, holding it against the back of my throat as long as possible, which eased the pain instantly. It didn't occur to me until some time afterwards that inasmuch as I drank cokes constantly all this time I was practically on a coke-and-aspirin jag. I wonder if that had any effect on the cure or merely made the convalescence pleasanter? ## I wish you hadn't told us about the cat, Marion. ## You might feel safer at 60 than at 30 but--except for particular circumstances, of course--the fact remains that you aren't. Of course, mental comfort means a good deal to some people, and at least you'll die happy when you go.

The Rambling Fap VII

FANZINE REVIEW By golly, perhaps all of that lamentable TAFF ruckus of a short time back served some good end after all...here is Madle once again appearing as a fanzine fan. ## Too bad the review department at Columbia went the way of all review departments...but how come, even in the days when it existed, I never could manage a review? I don't believe you ever did mention OOPS in print --probably just a case of my rather irregular schedule (see, I even admit it) never agreeing with yours. ## This might be as good a place as any to say that I've been enjoying the "Fake Fan In London" installments in JD, Bob. ## This will be a regular feature in future mailings, I trust?

TARGET: FAPA Who says a 'proper' asterisk has eight points instead of six? \*\*?

GALLERY I read it all--I can't say this about everything in the mailing--but no particular comment inspired...except to say that it was good, natch. I regret that we will see no more but I sympathize with the circumstances.

LE MOINDRE Now that's funny, but I hadn't thought a thing about house-builders advertising their wares as "homes" for sale. I guess you operate on the rather well-known basis that a house is not necessarily a home, huh? Well, I guess if you try hard enough you can find something innocent in almost anything to "set your teeth on edge." Now that I see how this affected you, I wonder how much of our argument over the relative differences of sports cars and Detroit cars was due to this sort of potential misinterpretation? ## I like Marion Bradley, but by golly that was a good point of yours...about Marion decrying the "elder gods of FAPA" and their evil ways and then turning around and telling the rest of the world that your five-year membership was not long enough to qualify you to speak on matters concerning the organization. However, it turns out as a point in favor of her argument...namely, she illustrated for you just how likely the elder gods are to misuse their influence. ## Not that this bears on my opinion of the amendment--I was all for it, as most of you know, and in addition I'm all for keeping it on the books after the Wetzel-Lance danger is over. It can't do any harm--and I don't think FAPANS will misuse the powers available to them. Now don't make me a liar, Marion. ## What's with the anti-SEP movement? I don't read the magazine myself except for the "Post Scripts" page and the cartoons, but some excellent Heinlein and Bradbury, to name but two, has appeared in those pages, and in addition I found some of their better westerns, particularly the Luke Shorts, palatable. Of course, I'm not too respectable a critic...I openly admit liking an occasional good western as well as Heinlein and (though not nearly as much) Bradbury.

POO I don't know how common the extra-digit mutation is in cats but it must be a dominant hereditary characteristic. Our cats are 'normal' (except that they are too blamed smart!) in that respect, but of the cats I've known with this mutation I believe all were related on the female side. ## I guess I am not one of the "filthy pro" gang after all, like you are--I never got my \$5 from INFINITY. I at least have that one thing in common with a good many other pros, though...not necessarily with INFINITY, I hasten to add, but many other magazines.

FAPATHY Well, Bob Silverberg, when are you going to head west instead of east and come visit? You can hit Boggs on the way, too, though I don't know about Les Croutch. It has been a long time since we both were publishing the early issues of OOPS and SPACESHIP, now that you mention it. You appeared in the third issue of OOPS, come to think of it. ## Ye gods, was it four years ago that you visited DAG in Wisconsin? I remember Dean mentioning it in a letter and it doesn't seem to have been that long ago. Matter of fact, I have not one but two pictures of you from that selfsame trip. One shows both you and DAG standing by Dean's desk, wearing each other's name-cards; the other is of you and Barbara (very pretty) near the sign proclaiming the city limits of Oshkosh (population 41084--drive carefully in school zones)(presumably they want the population to keep on increasing) since you were purported not to have believed in the town's existence at the time.

LARK Pardon me for taking up some of your space, Bill, but in the time between this heading was typed and now the day's mail has disgorged full payment from Larry Shaw...yes, the very same Larry Shaw I was talking about two paragraphs back. I had written to Larry quite some time back, when INFINITY folded, saying that I would just as soon have a couple of original illos as cash payment and two very fine drawings came in today's mail. Now on to LARK. ## Thanks for the tip on how to realign my keys on this typer, Bill...I'd intended to work on it a bit before typing these comments but as you can see I haven't tried it yet. I'm not quite sure what you mean by "squeeze on the bottom/top of the type bar" but maybe this will clear itself up once I try it. You wouldn't be interested in turning my platen down on your lathe, would you? It's badly indented but still relatively soft...oog, just checked it with my finger-nail and I take it all back. It's pretty hard. Perhaps I need a new one? This typer could stand a good cleaning, too. One of these days... ## I see you are having quite a bit more trouble than usual with offset...no doubt this is the paper we were discussing by letter? As you can see, I haven't made the switch to black ink yet so I can't say how much that will help me out. ## You can't smoke on SLCity Lines buses, either...but an interesting comment on the power of the ruling church in this state is the fact that even transcontinental buses, like Greyhound (horrors--is this payola?), prohibit smoking once the state line is crossed even though it's been perfectly legal everywhere else. It's true that I do not smoke and I don't care much for cigarette smoke in my eyes, either, but this seems to me a bit too much infringement for my taste. ## I can't fully appreciate your sentiments about comic-strip children who never grow up...for my part, I hope the characters in "Peanuts" will never grow up (although careful observation of the early strips will reveal that some of them have changed a bit in age, and not always the same amount relative to the other characters...for instance, how much has Charlie Brown changed over the years relative to Linus?) ## Speaking of Peanuts, have you Pogo-lovers seen the new book on Pogo? I disremember the exact title at the moment but it's something like "Ten Years With Pogo" and is a large-size hardcover selling for \$4.95. Looks to be very good, for those of you who still like Pogo (now that Peanuts is all the rage, many fans seem to have discarded the old gods) and it's the next thing on my "get" list at the moment now that I've ordered the two new Heinlein collections from Pick-A-Book. ## By the bye, for those of you who are not familiar with PAB let me say that Marty Greenberg is doing a wonderful job of providing some good quality science fiction at low prices...as low as \$1.20 per volume. I've obtained at least two dozen books from him as of this writing and I'm more than pleased with all save the Avalon books. Most of his stock are the older Fantasy Press and Gnome books, as well as new Gnome titles, and if--like me--you didn't chance to get them when they were new this is an excellent chance to rectify your mistake. Gnome is also putting out two new Heinlein collections but these are at regular prices. PO Box 63, Hicksville, NY, if you're interested. ## This was to be my last page of mailing comments, I said when I began. Hah! ## And I'm still not through with LARK...just want to say that your 14th page comment to Wansborough was wonderful, Bill--you'd never believe how big a chuckle I dug out of that. (My wife just came and when I showed it to her she said, quote: I think that's wonderful. She knows about Wansborough, you see. However, she adds, you do better than Norman even at your worst.)

THE SHAW RETORT In case you missed my saying so in the LARK comments, Larry, thanks for the illos which came today (4 January). ## But, Mr Budrys, sir, the only thing wrong with this--nice as it is to have you a fan once more--is that you wrote some darned good science fiction. And, out of fashion though some fans think it may be, I still read science fiction and so do a great many other fans. ## Bob Silverberg sounds a bit defensive (why is it most fans sound defensive when they 'leave' fandom?) but the attitude is quite sensible and much in accord with my own, although I have no intentions of ever being a pro writer. I wouldn't mind selling to ASTOUNDING (or ANALOG...hah!) one of these days, though, just for the hell of it. ## Very intelligent commenting by Pavlat. And I'm glad you set this whole thing off, Bob. More would be nice, too.



The Rambling Fap IX

A PROPOS DU BAREAN

Nice cover. The illustration did not reproduce as nicely as the typed heading but it still looks good. Atom is an excellent artist in both his serious and humorous veins. ## Interesting to note that of the non-FAPA commenters on your listing, both were relative neofans. Lichtman is, of course, rapidly improving and may some day be a top-ranked BNF (if there is really such a thing) but Schultz is certainly at the moment the neocest type of neo...his comment that the listing seemed incomplete when he is extremely unlikely to have seen even the most recent FAPA mailings, let alone the first dozen or so, is typical of what I mean. ## You are rapidly becoming one of my favorite FAPAns, Ron. The change in your writing and your viewpoints over the last few years has been amazing. This is not to say I didn't like you before, or anything--just that the improvement has been tremendous. (How do you say that a person has improved tremendously without implying that he was lousy before, even if this isn't what you mean to say?) ## Barr lives here in Salt Lake, Ron. He just likes to draw, isn't really a fan...this is in terms of the true fannish spirit, of course, or 'fandom-as-we-know-it.' He's a youngish sort, or at least struck me that way the two times I've seen him. I gave him some fanzines once but apparently they didn't affect him much. ## Hi, Jim.

KLEIN BOTTLE

That's a good line, Terry... "We didn't have the material to publish last mailing because somebody was holding up the Rotsler chain." Now that's what I call poetic justice. ## The cover turned out very well--reminds me of the discussion we had last summer about our mutual like to try to put intricate illustrations on stencil in an acceptable fashion. You did a damn fine job, I'd say. ## Unfortunately, I still have a distinct tendency to accumulate fannish letters, though things aren't as bad as they used to be by virtue of the fact that once, four years or so ago, I threw everything away. I wish I could bring myself to do it again soon. ## FAPA survey filled out and mailed today...4 January.

FAPHELION

FAPPREHENSIVE

LIKE HOGAN'S GOAT

Excellent pun-type cover on the first named item. ## I am rather disappointed in you people. After the tremendous build-up given you by GMCarr the least you could have done would be cheat on the teller job or something. Of course, I realize that the fact that you didn't will not necessarily prevent her from claiming that you did. No sense letting a little thing like the facts get in the way. ## I note one of your comments with astonishment, Buzz...namely: "You have a good point, that credentials might well be required for entrance to the WL..." But...but...but I always thought that they were! How many other FAPAns are under this misapprehension? Let's get this thing straight, you officers: new members do not apply for membership on the waiting-list, they apply for membership in the organization (how should they know if such a thing as a waiting-list even exists or not?) and as such they are supposed to HAVE CREDENTIALS AS OF THEIR APPLICATION, the way I see it. To hell with this idea of letting just any neo put his name on the list with the intention of either being an interested publisher by the time he gets to the top or else dropping out quietly and no harm done. In the first place it just doesn't seem ethically right to me; and in the second place, it does a lot of harm in that it makes the list seem insufferably long to new applicants and tends to discourage what might otherwise be worthwhile members. And if the uninterested parties don't drop off quietly but slip in for a year's worth of deadwood it just limits the organization that much more. No, sir, AN APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE CREDENTIALS BY THE TIME HE APPLIES FOR MEMBERSHIP, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A WAITING-LIST. I hope you officers are listening to this--what do you say about it? ## I agree 100%, Buzz, that the WL should be treated a lot more firmly than it is. Want to collaborate on an amendment to require every issue acknowledgement of the FA by WLers? ## Where do you suppose I got two z's in Buzz? Bees, I guess. Do you like honey? ## I've never encountered the human emergency mechanism that speeds up the time sense, I don't think, but I would like to know what goes into operation in emergencies to keep cool an otherwise flusterable head. Couple of times I've been in tightish scrapes...like big skids, say... and found myself cool as a cucumber in getting out of them, but once out and safe I'm as limp as a well-cooked noodle. Thank God, I say, but why does it work?

QABAL(S) Hi, there, Boyd Raeburn. We have a beat-type coffee shop here in SLC... just about the last place I'd expect to see anything related to the beat generation. SLC, that is. Down-and-outers we have, yes, but beatniks I didn't think so. But this place is...or at least attempts to be. I've been in twice, I believe, in two-three years. I'm not much of a beatnik, I'm afraid, though they do serve up some nice tasting varieties of coffee there for outlandish prices. ## Did you note in QABAL 4, Dean, that you can tell when you are typing and when Boyd is by the print? You have a much better stencil cutting touch than does Boyd...at least on your typer.

PHLOTSAM I note carefully your statement (p. 3) that the elevator service at the Detention was atrocious. It merely seemed that way because the service the Chicon II had in Chicago in 1952 was so outstanding everything since has seemed poor by comparison. That was the year, as you may recall, some quick, right-thinking elevator operator caught GM Carr's head in the elevator doors. ## So Harlan remembers some of his military training but not enough..."...the left hand cupped gently but firmly along the barrel and receiver grouping." Dig hands. ## The theatrical mishaps remind me of the time I was playing the romantic lead in the school operetta and in one scene was called upon to kneel at the feet of my lady love. Unfortunately I was wearing a sword at the time and when I got halfway down to one knee the sword wedged between my hip and the floor and there I hung, able to get neither down nor up. I finally solved the problem by falling over on my side but of course this was somewhat distracting from the original drama of the scene. ## Beautiful printing, Phyll. ## And pardon me for cutting off so short on the comments but this is the last stencil and I have yet to comment on

HORIZONS By golly, Harry, I'm going to change my ways. Always I save you for last so I'll have plenty of time in which to comment, and always I wind up half-way down the last stencil before I get started. Next time I'll try to remember to go in reverse order instead of saving the best for last all of the time. ## I also hear by scuttlebutt that not only has the amendment passed but Wetzel has been successfully eliminated (supposedly also in his Lance pseudonym) but unfortunately, Harry, not as many other people marked Myer's name as well. I did and now you say you did, but apparently the rest of the FAPA enjoyed the outdated sports tickets and other trivia enough to want to be subjected to this kind of uselessness a second time. There's no accounting for taste, is there? ## How, pray tell, do you pull something out with either "your fingers or some blunt instrument"? I had previously thought that a blunt instrument was traditionally something you hit with, preferably some innocent bystander. ## Perhaps it was my youth at the time, but the old Buck Rogers was a pretty interesting comic strip at times...the present substitute is pretty much of nothing. It has accomplished one noteworthy thing, though...Flash finally got shed of Dale Arden after all these sterile years. I probably shouldn't have said that--next thing I know he'll have her back again just because I opened my big fat mouth. ## I have to take exception to your belief that the service does not particularly improve men between induction and discharge, Harry, because it most certainly does. Merely by exposing the individual to a great many other kinds of people, places and situations it does more good than an extra dozen years of otherwise normal living. Most people learn best by observation and in several years of military life the serviceman has opportunity for thousands of observations more than he would have otherwise encountered. And as for your counterclaim concerning the "vast numbers" of men who come out with newly acquired inability to hold either his liquor or his sexual instincts in check I say bosh! These traits would be the same with or without service time. You do have one valid point, though...the inability of certain types to make decisions for themselves. However, this sort of person usually goes in as a private and comes out as a private and would have done the same in civilian life before, most probably. The service certainly offers plenty of opportunity for types who like to think for themselves, no matter what you may have heard. No, I think a temporary stretch is good, in general, for most persons--I know now that I wouldn't have my service time traded for any other three years of my life. ## And there's just room left to admit that, yes, this is a STARFLAME PUBLICATION.