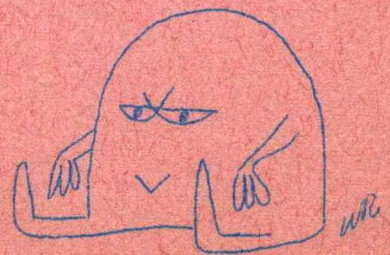


calkins the
29 fapa 98 februa
62 gregg calkins the
rambling fap 29 fapa 98
bruary 1962 gregg cal
rambling fap 29 fap
bruary 1962 gregg
the rambling
2 febr
ca



The Rambling Fap II

THE FANTASY AMATEUR (Officialdom) Lots of offset this time, Burb...seems to be a common thing these days. I wonder if paper makers in general are turning to less absorbent papers these days? For instance, although I've purchased my paper almost exclusively from Master's for years, I noticed today that my earlier issues are quite distinct from more recent ones as far as the paper is concerned, and the chief difference is that the paper in later issues is less absorbent and more prone to offset. Danner and I had quite a discussion on this once and he had a bit of correspondence with Master Products to no avail, but their paper characteristics are definitely changing. Is this an industry wide phenomenon? Does anyone know about ABDick's present line of mimeo papers? ## Marion: I think that waiting listers should at least pay the postage charges on the FA, and maybe more. Say a flat fee of 10¢ per FA payable at \$1 upon registration on the w-1 and the balance due as needed? Beginning NOW with current w-1'ers being assessed on a pro rata basis. As for requiring the OE to acknowledge fanzines received for the quarterly bundles--only if the sender encloses a postcard for the purpose and requests it individually. This sort of occasional check may prove necessary from time to time, but let's not have the FAPA officialdom participating in the same sort of cradle-to-grave security that our US officialdom is so kindly providing for us. ## I'm in favor of the amendment. Not because I think any 12 present-day FAPA members would abuse the so-called blackball, but because I think it should be handled like any potentially dangerous weapon--carefully. This way it's still there if the situation is serious enough but it is less easy to use carelessly. Like Boggs, I'd just as soon not have it at all; but since I consider it to have been invented for a specific purpose--and we all know who I mean--we should keep in mind that those same circumstances might again arise someday.

ANKUS (Pelz) Thanks for the vote of confidence for FAPA re the blackball. ## Liked the Bjo strip and I'd like to add my vote for continuance with only one slight grotch--maybe it's only misplaced nostalgia but it seemed to me that the PSI-PHI strip was better than this somehow. More detailed? I don't know in what way...perhaps it was merely the slick paper.

PHANTASY PRESS (McPhail) You know, Dan, that was the doggondest thing about that pain in my side. It came on suddenly, defied diagnosis, persisted for a week or two and then slowly went away. ## Should be the first effort on the WHO'S WHO in this mailing, Dan, since you ask. ## You know, you're right about walking and whistling going hand in hand...now that I think of it, about the only time I whistle is when I'm walking, and I seldom walk without whistling. Whistling, though, has always been a great source of disappointment to me. My range is rather limited and I can't whistle high notes at all, yet nobody else seems to have any trouble. My whistler is handicapped, I guess.

ALIF (Anderson) Your "Miss Peach" cover this time was no doubt greatly appreciated by Elinor and Buz...not to mention yours truly.

LE MOINDRE (Raeburn) Really--no-kidding-honest-to-gosh? When you were a deprived child you didn't know any dirty songs? Not one? Whoosh, now I'm beginning to have serious doubts about my own childhood.

GROTESQUE (Martin) The first two stories were priceless...the others amusing but having nothing like the punchlines of the first two.

LARK (Danner) Great line, that, about the "ever increasing menace to highway traffic --the driverless, out-of-control utility pole." ## I've been misinformed...I'd always thought Rolls prices started at \$13,500.00 Oh, well, what's \$2500 more or less when it's a Rolls? ## Cheers on your letter to Newt, Bill, but what the hell, you don't really think he cares, do you? Shake up the troops, get his name in print, draw his salary...that's it.

The Rambling Fap III

WRAITH Sounds like you had quite an experience at the convention, Wrai--hope
(Ballard) we can both make it to Chicago because I'd certainly like to meet you.
 And conventions are a lot of fun, even speaking from my own limited
experience. I attended the 1952 Chicago convention--at which I had a tremendous
time, perhaps the best I'd ever had--and then my USMC time interrupted my con going
and after that, poverty...or what passes for poverty in a student's life. However,
the wife and I went to the 1960 Westercon at Boise and both enjoyed it very much,
so we're both looking forward to attending future sf conventions whenever possible.
They're more fun than a vacation. ## Boy--your typewriter is in worse shape than
mine, if that's possible. What I'd really like is a new IHM electric...

EOS Hmmm...glad to get that phone conversation straightened out once and for
(Speer) all. Looks like I'll have to beat my wife again. I'm terribly sorry,
 Jack, that she didn't think to invite you over or try to get in touch
with me (though that would have no doubt proven impossible) or at the very least ask
you to call again later. I can offer only one weak explanation in lieu of apology.
My wife is not really well versed on the fans in fandom and the chances are that she
did not place your name immediately when you called...it seems to me now that when
she was passing on the message that she asked if you weren't the fan we met at Boise
but of course by that time it was too late. Too, maybe she was thinking slowly--she
did say that you'd hung up before she could think what to say. Then, too, since she
probably didn't place your name right away she didn't know what my attitude would
be--what with certain undesirable characters floating around fandom from time to
time, pawning their hosts' typewriters and all, I've told her in no uncertain terms
that just because somebody calls up and says he's a fan is no reason to invite him
in unless I'm at home. So...for all the various reasons, Jack, I'm sorry we missed
you and I hope you come back again.

MELANGE You're right--the fantasy art award would look good with FAPA's name
(Trimbles) on it and I, for one, am 100% in agreement with you. Now the ques-
 tion is...what do we do about it?

ABJECT APOLOGY No, I didn't know that Aluminium Ltd was primarily US owned but
(Lyons) I suppose I should have guessed. When are you people going to
 get smart and nationalize everything...that's the accepted way
to get the bloody foreigners out these days, isn't it? ## But a firm that pays
all of its dividends--even to Canadians--in US currency? I find this hard to take
not because I don't admit its possibility but rather because I've never heard of a
firm paying dividends in cash before. Or don't you mean actual currency but instead
a check for such-and-such dollars rather than pounds? ## Actually and truly, you
people have me wondering. When I was a child I grew up with the firm conviction
that we Americans were basically nice people and that we were doing our best to be
friendly, good neighbors, etc etc etc. I really thought so. But in recent years
I've heard only how we are either exploiting the other nations of the world or else
running roughshod as uncaring tourists over their sensitive national customs, or...
well, you name it, we've apparently done it. And since we can't seem to do anything
right, I wonder if our best policy in the future wouldn't be to pull out of world
affairs entirely and let somebody else do it. At least that way we'd stop fouling
up the rest of you people. ## Still and all, I shouldn't take this out on you...
you're one of the nicest, most sensible, least bitching Canadians I know. If the
US ever did do something right at least you would admit it.

IDLE HANDS Thanks for the Heinlein corrections--where were you when I asked for
(Metcalf) them the first time around so that this second try could have been
 improved? But seriously, some of the corrections are as difficult
to interpret as the errors. For instance, the G&D "Beyond This Horizon" didn't list
a publishing date but listed the copyright as 1948, so you're probably right on
that. On the other hand, "Space Cadet," "Tomorrow the Stars," "Between Planets,"

The Rambling Pap IV

and "Farmer in the Sky" all show the listed publishing dates on their title pages, although they do admit to the earlier magazine copyrights you mention. So if listing 1948 for the G&D publication is incorrect--which I admit--so then would be listing the dates you correct for the other titles. It's a problem and I'm not sure how to correct it other than listing all pertinent data each time. The other corrections you give are 100% on the nose and boo-boos on my part. Thanks for the info.

CATCH TRAP But Marion, bibliographies aren't intended to be goshwow reading...
(Bradley) they are reference works, in a modest way not unlike a dictionary,
 another item which isn't exactly renowned for its sparkling plot. ##
In your all-FAPA town, my wife would also serve as an elementary school teacher. I suppose I'd have to be a miner--a sobering thought--or perhaps Ron Ellik and I could practice up on our ferocious expressions and run the Police Department. How about it, Ron...feeling tough these days? ## For Charles Wells: the waiting list problem is indeed a difficult one but I hesitate to attempt to find a solution along your lines. The trouble now, as I see it, is that every young fan who comes along finds out about FAPA and realizes that if he ever wants to get into the organization he'd better get on the list pronto. He does this without even knowing anything about the organization (except that the so-called BNF's are all members, for the most part) and often he doesn't really care at the moment but figures he might at the moment. The solution, again as I see it, is to place some sort of restriction upon the w-l much as there is upon the membership. To retain membership in a publishing organization we members have to publish a specified amount. It stands to reason that to apply for membership, then, you should be a publisher (or contributor--let's not haggle) of some duration. Then if we wish to restrict the w-l we should require the applicant to have been a publisher for 'x' years before application...or so many pages...or something similar. ## I'm against the maximum activity limitation, I'm afraid--too often the best thing in the mailing is a giant-sized production which would probably not have been produced if it were subject to undue taxation...or if not a giant-sized thing, just continuous production throughout the year by a member or group of members. Personally, I feel 32 pages a year to be an optimum contribution for myself and most members, but certainly not for all. And while a certain amount of legislation and regulation are necessary and even desirable things, there is just as much danger in having too much as too little...perhaps more so.

BOBOLINGS Well, I've never quite had a "C'est la Guerre" but I sympathize with
(Pavlat) your troubles. At the moment we have two cars--a 1950 Chev and a 1950
 Jeep--and our previous car before this was another 1950 Chev, so since
late 1956 we've owned no vehicle less than six years old and generally older. And don't we know it...brake jobs, loose doors and windows, crumbling rubber fixtures both inside and out, and so it goes. One of these days I'd like to have a new Jeep and a new VW and see what it would feel like to be working on the first six years or so of a vehicles life instead of the last six. ## You are in much better shape, imaginationwise, than I am, though...all of my cars, without exception, have been called 'Betsy.' Even now with two cars neither one is distinguished by a separate name or 'Junior' or anything. ## Come see us again on your next trip, you hear?

GCON Most enjoyable con report, Dick...and I discovered this much to my own
(Eney) surprise because I don't, as a rule, read con reports. They (a) aren't
 of too much interest to non-attendees, and (b) they make me feel bad for not having been there. And your description of the Jack Speer smile (last part of 'paragraph' 14) was excellent...a perfect rendition of my own feelings which I've heretofore been unable to put into words. ## Doesn't seem logical to me that the term "jerry-built" would refer to German construction since the term implies poor workmanship and except for some ersatz creations during the latter part of WWII the Germans were hardly noted for that. Or, at least, so goes my impression. ## Hmm, I goofed the x-ray thing, didn't I? Of course, you're assuming some penetration, whereas I was thinking the stone would be thick enough for no penetration.

The Rambling Fap V

NULL-F (White) Those people who say: "If there is no satisfactory legal answer to police abuses--as is true in the USA---..." certainly have had a definite lack of experience on the side of the law. As a matter of fact, a good cop's hands are tied--legally--in so many ways that he is often seriously hampered in the performance of his duties, duties set forth by society not the Police Department, and to me it's a wonder that more cops don't abuse the laws out of sheer frustration. This is not to condone police abuses, where such exist--but it's a damned sight different situation in general than the people screaming "police brutality" see fit to mention. And if you don't think there are numerous legal ties on the PD or that a good many offenders escape deserving punishment because of legal loopholes, don't just sit there and disbelieve...take a jaunt down to your own local office and check up on some of the facts of life. I don't like the way the PD handles itself, myself, sometimes, and I'd rather see an easing of laws and restrictions rather than an increase, but I hope I don't make any silly statements like the one about the lack of legal control of police abuses. ## My main gripe is firearms legislation...just for instance, I can't buy pistol ammunition within the city proper without going down and getting an itemized permit every time, even though I have a permit to own the pistol. This is ridiculous not to mention being a serious affront to my individual legal rights...but I have no doubts about the persons behind it. My do-gooder fellow citizens rather than the Police Department. A goodly proportion of the latter are at least NRA members and therefore at least exposed to the problem of civil firearms legislation. ## Where there are abuses by citizens there will also be abuses by their policemen--a cop, after all, is no more than a citizen in uniform, and an under-paid one at that. ## Hmmm...I suppose if given enough time, equipment and patience I could remember enough chemistry to qualify as US Assayer in the FAPA town but I'd just as soon turn it over to Bill Evans.

LIGHTHOUSE (Carr & Graham) That's a fine cover and an outstanding illo by Sylvia for the heading for "Blind Clarinet." For that matter, the whole thing is technically beautiful. And long...where do you get all of that energy, not to mention the time? I'm forced to do my mailing comments (which is about all the stencil-cutting I do these days) in bits and snatches and I'm afraid it shows. Stop and go commenting also has a marked effect on my enthusiasm, too--which is about the primary reason I don't have more to say to you this time. (I will note that if I seem to be addressing one person here it's because I always think of LIGHTHOUSE as being the work of Terry Carr...sorry, Pete.

CELEPHAIS (Evans) Your convention record is even worse than mine...at least I attend one worldcon a decade, although I'll admit that if I miss Chicago next year there goes my consecutive string stopped at one. Actually--though I'm not at all in favor of changing the traditional date--the Labor Day weekend is an extremely inconvenient one for us. Unlike most states, Salt Lake City schools begin the week before Labor Day which means that JoAnn has to be here on the Friday before the convention and the Tuesday morning after. Since most conventions are too far away to drive to in this length of time--Salt Lake is far away from everywhere--we either fly or don't attend. Now I have my own personal views on airplane roulette, too, but aside from that we've always been too poor to fly and that does that, QED. ## The thing that always burned me up about the movie Tarzan was that silly tree hut they lived in in their panther skins...that and the fact that the good old ape man was only a dumb nut (just smart enough to squeak through to victory every time) with muscles. ## I almost took up smoking in Marine Corps boot camp. When we took time out for a smoking break the rest of the platoon lit up with sighs of relief, whereas to me the break was just five more minutes I had to spend standing around in ranks. But just about the time I was ready to start smoking the DI's started using the smoking break--or lack of it--as a punishment and when I saw the suffering the others went through it was as naught compared to my slight discomfort and that decided it for me. My chief grouch about smokers is that they are, to a man, careless sloppy and inconsiderate of what they do with their smokestreams, ashes and butts.

The Rambling Fap VI

I'm impressed that you find time to read so much, Bill. I buy F&SF and Analogous regularly but manage to read only the latter, so far...the bulk of my sf reading is done via the pocket-book route. You would oblige me very much if you'd give me a rule of thumb rating of the magazines presently being published. Do you really think it is worth my while to buy Amazing for future reading? ## For Jack Speer: I've wondered for some time what the legality is of carrying a non-concealed weapon in a major city like, say, Salt Lake or Seattle. Everybody knows it's against the law to carry a concealed weapon without permit, but what if I were to go downtown wearing one openly on my hip? When buying pistols or pistol ammunition I have to get a purchase permit from the PD but that's all and it lists no restrictions, etc, on it. And I've worn the pistol on my hip many times outside the city limits without disturbance by anyone. But what about downtown?

SERCON'S BANE
(Effem)

That quote-cover was the greatest, Buz, especially the one about the Old FAPA Joke. I didn't know you'd been trying to get Tucker on one of your panels, though. ## Best Line of the Mailing: "You can't expect to give women an even break and still break even." ## After much confusion on my part and a considerable amount of searching I finally came right out and asked my local book dealer for books by Dorcas Bagby and after giving me the long, slow once-over he went in the back room and came back with two titles in excellent condition. Seems he's had them for years but didn't want to just put them out on the shelves where just anyone could pick them up. It pays to ask, sometimes, I guess. No "Moswell Plan," though--maybe I'll have to borrow that from someone? ## The same thought kept occurring to me all the time I was addressing Redd last time, Buz...just as it did when I took off on DESCANT at about a similar time. You've gotta look out for those deadfalls and anybody can miss one...and it only takes one. ## This ear wiggling fraternity is growing by leaps and bounds--maybe we'd better start a club? I may be the only reported case so far with sound reduction, but I believe you're the only one with...well, dare I say ambidexterity? My dictionary lists a second definition for the word as "2. unusual cleverness" and anyone who can wiggle his ears separately certainly rates that distinction as far as I'm concerned. ## Anybody who tries to keep up with more than one apa is mad, mad, MAD! Or do you already know this?

SALUD
(andE)

You mention one point in regards to Pohl's "Slave Ship" which has long been a sore point with me concerning sf writers in general...namely that if they had kept on writing their various stories as well as they begun, the stories would be standouts, but invariably the writers slack off. I feel that I haven't stated that too well so let me start over. All too often a writer (like Pohl in "Slave Ship") will start off with an excellent idea and a really gosh-wow story only to...well, sort of lose the thread or become impatient with getting finished or something. And what starts out to be the best sf/fsy story ever droops down to something less than the national average. I even went so far as to write to an sf author about it once...fortunately I picked damon knight for his Zenith Books pb of "The People Maker" so I not only got a reply but an intelligent and nice reply to boot. It boiled down to the fact that Zenith had cut his book not only grossly but terribly and without his consent--which wasn't much satisfaction to me but at least it was an explanation. But other cases--such as Pohl--are certainly not always this way and I wonder what the real explanation is? ## Oh, sure, you'd no doubt be angry if you had incurable cancer and the doctor kept the news from you...but not for long. ## I just couldn't resist that. ## Well, Buz says I bit on the Clarke satire and since I respect his judgement I guess I must have. Still and all, it's hard for me to separate personalities in print and goodness knows it took me long enough to keep you and Buz in individual compartments in my think-tank. I've got you now, I think...although I wonder if it didn't take the Boycon to do it? Hmm...maybe I should put off grotching at people until I attend more conventions and get a chance to meet them. ## I was interested in your statement that you have always been influenced by the people with whom you associate. Me, too. Guess we're just sort of wishy-washy Charlie Brown types, huh? ## I must re-read Tolkien someday, I guess.

The Rambling Fap VII

NULL-F (White) Hmmm...begins to look like the less said about--or to--Mr and Mrs Sam Moskowitz, the better. Oh, well, FAPA will be almost the same with 64 members and a sore spot. I never thought I'd see the day I'd wish to see the redoubtable Mrs Carr back in the fold, but at least you could argue with her and not have to face a lawsuit when you found yourself winning. ## And what was all that nonsense about violence being the last resort of the incompetent?

PHLOTSAM (Jetsam) If a FAPazine is rejected because--like the numbering on Flotz 18--the copies are not all identical, just how much is rejected? I mean, just the non-identical parts or, as might have happened in this case, the other 28 pages as well? ## Nice to hear you made the convention and all, but where were you when you weren't here? You didn't stop off at Salt Lake City for a visit on your way home. Matter of fact, nobody did. What's the matter--have I been extra grouchy or standoffish this year or something? Where are the traveling fans of yesterday? ## Tell me, just what is your conception of an "Associate Ranger"? I'm dying to know. Do you mean something like a simple old deputy or wild and exotic? If the latter, Mal and I may accept the jobs you've proposed. ## No, I don't run several small issues of TRF in a mailing just to run up the number count...at least, not entirely, if I must be honest about it. What usually happens is that I don't expect to have any more time when I finish one issue...then when I find more time, I just have to start all over again. Then, too, it often happens that I'm presenting several different ideas...mailing comments, the Bloch bibliography and the Heinlein material last time, for instance. But I'll admit having thought more about putting things together. In the future, all editorial ramblings (of which I plan to have more from now on) plus mailing comments plus letters (if any) will go into one issue and other items (like the WHO ZOO, etc) into another. I've thought of giving the two things separate titles, but consecutive numbers seems somehow easier. There, have I done a good job rationalizing myself? ## Oh, I'm with you 100%...I always find the FA interesting and enjoyable. It's invariably the first thing I read in every mailing. ## While we both like sleeping in a cold bedroom we also both feel very reluctant about getting up into a cold bedroom. When it comes right down to it, I hate it! But I seldom have to do it because Jo usually gets up about an hour before I do and turns up the heat, so by the time I straggle out of bed and off to school or work, the place is somewhat warmed.

HORIZONS (Warner) You are getting to be quite a humorist, Harry, with your HORIZONS cover credits. ## I'll quibble a bit about that line you quoted from DAY* STAR about "present laws make it very difficult to obtain and keep weapons" and refuted by asking Marion to look in the Montgomery Ward catalog. If my memory serves me rightly, the biggest caliber firearm one can buy in such mail-order houses is a .22 and, brother, that just plain ain't my idea of a weapon. For a rabid pussycat, mebbe, but certainly nothing stronger. But I'll have to agree with you in principle because there are certainly many other ways you can order a true-life firearm without much trouble. However, the trend is certainly in the direction Marion describes and, unfortunately, in the not-too-distant future you'll find her statement will be perfectly true. ## I'll have to disagree with you again, Harry--good grief, what is the world coming to?--but Ted Cogswell is right. You can and do often hear brilliant things in a beer-drinking session. Some, of course, are as you state in that they only appear brilliant at the time--but this can happen to you under sober circumstances as well, you must admit, as numerous con men have proven from time to time. But other statements are truly brilliant. Often this comes from the release of the subconscious mind enabling a normally forgotten or overlooked gem to come to the surface (haven't you ever had something on the tip of your tongue but couldn't spit it out?) and occasionally it comes from a normally brilliant but otherwise inhibited person losing some of his restraint and joining in a conversation he, when sober, would have avoided. And that bit about "in vino veritas" (or however it goes) has more than just a grain of truth to it, too. ## You just can't beat the stuff the vintners sell, regardless of what they buy.

The Rambling Fap VIII

1 February 1962. The 11th hour is approaching, but I'm just about through. Now if only I had my wife trained like Buck Coulson has his... But there are one or two late arrivals on hand:

Ed Martin Sorry to see you go, but I'm afraid you're taking the wrong attitude. Although I did not recognize every single "sotry/joke" in GROTESQUE as did the no doubt wider-read Mathom House crowd, still I don't believe for a moment that you're being booted out on the whims of an inner clique. The constitution is pretty definite--and it was quoted to you. Nor does your remark about comments-on-comments being invalid apply inasmuch as they are original material, not reprints, and thus they get full credit. However, this does not solve your problem. I can only echo the Mathom House suggestion that you try sections 3.3 or 3.5 of the constitution. Oh, yes, and next time don't wait until the last moment before your membership expires to submit a batch of reprinted material. If FAPA fails to get original material from its new blood it is indeed in for that sad end you promised it upon taking your leave.

DESCANT I think I said this before, but...okay, you guys, I surrender. You (Clarkes) caught me out on the limb--please don't saw it off. I promise next time I'll laugh at your jokes. (Of course, you realize this will have one adverse affect: from now on I'll never take anything you say seriously. I wouldn't dare.) ## And re the Canada/US controversy: you may or may not be virtually Americans, but the question is far from unacknowledged by us. As a matter of fact, I think that's where most US feelings get hurt in cultural relations with Canada. Since we speak a common language (within reason) and have such a common border and, presumably, common interests, we do tend to think of you as neighbors ...and in America, naturally we think of our neighbors as being American. However, invariably the surest way to make a Canadian mad is to call him an American...he reacts almost like it's an insult. And since we Americans sort of like being what we are, for the most part, our feelings get hurt. I suppose it's no more than we deserve for being so sensitive, but still what can we do about it? For my part I think Canadians are nice people. I wouldn't mind being one myself. I'd probably rather live in Canada than the US, if I had a choice. So how come most Canadians seem (I said seem, notice) to react so violently at the slightest suggestion that they might be expected to feel similarly about us?

Anybody out there play handball? When I decided to start dieting again recently I also decided to take JFK's advice to get off of my fat a-- and get in shape for a change, and handball is the way I've chosen. A wonderful sport and just about the only form of athletics in which I've enjoyed participating. Several of my friends and I play either doubles or singles about twice a week...more often when we have the time and vice versa. It has its drawbacks, though--for instance, at the moment I'm hobbling around with a very sore big toe, an injury sustained when I inadvertently kicked the side wall while attempting a too-difficult play.

Also, we're getting ready to put on our nomad clothes again. As most of you know, I'll be graduating with my MS in August (it helps to keep your fingers crossed, I'm told) and I've already accepted a job with Standard Oil of California. They won't know where I'll be stationed, either, until this summer but the chances are good that it won't be in Utah. Suits me--all of my friends are graduating in June, and my parents long since moved to California. Most likely I'll go to Anchorage (I'd like that) or Seattle (hi, Effemanie) or La Habra (hi, LASFS) or Bakersfield (hi, lizards). But of course we'll know more about this in the future, and I'll keep you posted in the May or August mailings. Hmm, yes--mustn't miss that August mailing, must I? But right now I'm more concerned with missing the February mailing with this issue--which is, of course

A STARFLAME PUBLICATION