

REVOLTING TALES OF SEX AND SUPER-SCIENCE

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7th July: Only a few weeks ago I decided that I would discontinue publishing Philosophical Gas (having already killed Bundalohn Quarterly and Lodbrog) and in future concentrate on publishing the fanzine which gives me most pleasure - and for which most people have paid subscriptions - Scythrop. Having made that resolve, a few days later Brian Lombard invited me to join the Amateur Publishing Association of Southern Africa (Africapa), and I was forced to launch a brand-new fanzine.

So be it. I would have continued Philosophical Gas, but I had already adopted that title for my editorial in future issues of Scythrop, so here is my new all-purpose apazine. Revolting Tales will be short, if not sweet, and will usually appear in only one apa at a time (so don't be alarmed - as if you would! - if you miss numbers).

I suspect that the title is inspired, if not actually stolen, from some drawing by Bill Rotsler. There's a man who has a lot to answer for.

If I had a little more cash you would not be seeing this at all. Philosophical Gas nos. 20 and 22 are collated, stapled and ready to mail - but I can't afford the airmail postage required to get them into this mailing. With luck you will see them in November - and along with them, Scythrop 28, which is almost finished.

Pardon me, please, if I say things here which I have already said in PG 20 and 22 and Scythrop 28. There are things I would like to say to FAPA, and some of them I have already said in those publications, but I would rather you read them in August than wait another three months.

I am delighted and honoured to share second place on the egoboo poll with Gregg Calkins. I know it is part of FAPA

tradition for Harry to come first, and this adds piquancy to my sharing what amounts to first place. Thank you, you lovely few who voted, and I can't think of anyone in FAPA I would rather share this honour with than Gregg.

Last mailing, if I remember correctly, contained stuff from me written between December and February. That's a long way back, and things have changed a lot since. The biggest change may be summed up in one word: Sally.

It's a strange feeling, at the age of 34, to know that you are legally a free man. It is an even stranger feeling, at that age, and after seven years of legal bondage, to know that you have found the perfect partner. To know also that the entire wonderful thing could collapse around my ears tomorrow or next week or next year is simultaneously frightening (since I have never in my life been so happy) and challenging. All that Sally and I have to keep us together is love. There is no legal contract. This - and I still find it hard to believe that it applies as much to her as to me - keeps you on your toes, makes you exercise consideration and patience and all those things that should be in marriage and rarely are. It is, I am not at all ashamed to admit, an education. The lady is more than I ever dreamt of or hoped for, and be damned if fandom or anything else gets in the way.

Depending on your viewpoint, it is fortunate that Sally finds fandom new and interesting and exciting. Last weekend we collated and/or stapled everything uncompleted in the place: Scythrops, PGs, everything. We are both very independent persons, but we gain pleasure from helping each other. With any luck at all you should be seeing at least as much from me as ever, and possibly more - but it might just possibly be somewhat... different. Stay tuned.