SYNAPSE

Published for FAPA 113 by Jack Speer, 2034 Kiva, Santa Fe NM

DENDRITES

To look at Synapse, you wouldn't think i'm a perfectionist. But i have a passion to do all the research in sight before finally writing something, and that's a form of perfectionism. This quarter, it has resulted in my running this off extremely close to the deadline.

Historian Without an Armchair started me working on the story in this issue. From the local library i got the novel The Man Who Shot Lincoln, and Lincoln in the Telegraph Office, which i promptly left in Judge Larrazolo's office. The Albuquerque library yielded Why Was Lincoln Murdered? and The Web of Conspiracy, but The Day Lincoln Was Killed wasn't on the shelves. I dug into the other books when i should have been finishing up the reading of the mailing; and then at the sale Saturday i came across a condensation of the last-named, and so got very few stencils cut over the weekend i should have finished Synapse.

However, Armistice Day and the next day are holidays for me, and i'm using them to wind this up. I was up all last night. Toward dawn i went out several times to try to see the comet, but no luck. Saw it a week or so ago, though.

Not so many knocked-out o's this time, thanks to your advice. You all are very kind to help a neo with his mimeoing problems. I put a used plastic sheet under the cushion sheet for extra cushioning. (But, Harry, where could i get amber railroad bond nowadays?) It's very strange: Son of Moby Dick hasn't needed a drink once during the running of this issue.

A reason i started so late on finishing the last mailing is the temptations of my bedside reading. Currently these include a book on organic chemistry that promises to make the subject come clear for me at last; and Asimov's The Human Brain. The former is due back at the library tomorrow; i hope i can dig a little more of it first.

Happiness is a four-day weekend with nothing scheduled. I wish this were one.

Mailing 112

EPIMETHEUS

FANTASY AMATEUR etc

You don't say why the mailing was going out several days late, Bruce. If it was because of the rioting, we can feel a part of history.

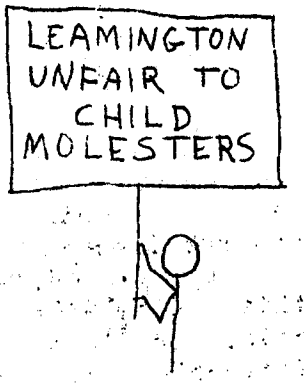
In the FAPAfficial notice, our late president says neither he nor the OE has power to change the voting deadline set by the constitution. Bill, remember the history of the provision giving the president power to deal with situations not otherwise covered by the constitution. It resulted from delays in sending out the mailing, touched upon in Phantasy Press's history section this time. However, i agree that in this instance, the deadline automatically set at a month after the mailing is dispatched needed not be varied.

Some members may wonder if the constitution is amiss when an amendment fails although it gets more votes for than against. Notice that the total votes on amendment 3 were 30, which is less than half the membership. Many constitutions provide that in such case the amendment fails.

BIXEL

I hesitate to put Metcalf's name in parentheses after the title, because i somehow get the feeling he may not have had much to do with publishing this.

I must have asked when this was published before, but i don't remember Laney's answer. What did the Quorkian word "Tyfe" mean?



QUEEBCON

"we split". You mean you went one way and Norm went the other?

I've been vaguely wondering what the weird Perverty things were that people refer to in connection with Queebcons; now i know. "supercaliflagellisticexpiorchiastic".

"Norm blushingly took bows" is past tense, but i don't know how you get the same out of "maidens strew rose-petals". You peculiar British types sometimes use "shew" for "show", but that's still present. I shall lie awake trying to rationalise this.

HORIZONS

Harry Warner, the man who came to dinner.

I think the effect of the Martin affair on the Breen mess was opposite to your supposition. Many people had uneasy consciences about Martin, and this disposed them to lean backward on the next case.

Maybe the answer is obvious from your comment, but in view of the skepticism many fans have about the efficacy of punishment, i think you should have said something in its defense before prescribing extra severe punishment for the first offense as the way to cut down juvenile crime.

Your remarks on my nitpicking seem not to be addressed to anything i've said. I don't believe i've ever objected to "it is me"; on the contrary, i think i've argued that we should recognize as a more accurate description of practice the French rule whereby a pronoun disjoined from its verb takes

the disjunctive form. I'm not promoting "someone else's pet rules on proper usage", and my point never has been "that some FAPA members do not use the kind of grammar that is taught in college". My point is what you dispute but do not refute, that typos and other lapses frequently do cause "confusion of meaning" or "momentary loss of quick comprehension".

A perpetual motion machine, for practical purposes, is one that you can take energy out of. The universe is, on man's scale, a perpetual motion machine, but that's not exactly what the Santa Fean who's working on the problem has in mind.

Was your father a lipreader? In silent flicks, usually only a very small sample of what the characters were saying would be spelled out for us.

Gee, i didn't remember that you went to parochial school. Was the church you referred to last time, that you would go to if you went to one, the Catholic Church?

I hope you mean it about bequeathing your psyche for dissection. This means that you must write down the things you've vaguely hinted at.

One ingredient of newspapers that is ill adapted to bobtailing is the syndicated column. I have a couple of horrible examples from the local paper, of which only this one is at hand.

> ...
> "They're bigots and they're bullies and they're cowards," Grandma Eagle would say every time we talked about the Klan. She would get angrier and angrier and one day she said that "if the men in this town won't do anything about it, I will."
> I didn't ask her what she was going to do, because I realized this fragile, little old lady wasn't going to make any announcement in advance. But the next time the Klan paraded through the main street of town, the marchers were greeted by Grandma Eagle.

Here's another example of the Procrustean treatment:

> What is the electric slicing knife's future? First of all, the two GE men believe it will ultimately become a standard kitchen item on par with electric mixers, rather than largely a gift item.

Who writes headlines, by the way? I thought this was generally done by the local editor, but i have several times of late noticed headlines in which there was information that never did appear in the story. And in some cases i don't believe the story had been bobtailed. '' I agree strongly that the news should govern the makeup, but it is horrible to what an extent form controls substance in newspapers. '' Alva told me that one of the San Francisco papers, the Chronicle i think, apparently isn't proofread at all, and every issue has some monstrous booboo in it.

Aiee. The morning one of our rockets was to hit the moon and it was carried live on television, i got out of bed to hear the last seconds of it and our tube was having a fit, so that i could see nothing down to the moment of the excited declaration, "We've impacted!" '' One respect in which s-f failed in its prophetic function was our omission ever to mention craters on Mars. It should have been obvious that if the Barsoomian atmosphere was as thin as seemed probable (though we hoped otherwise), there'd be nothing to stop the meteors, and one of the two respectable theories about the lunar craters has them caused by meteors. '' Do you really expect that in "only a few more years" a rocket will go to a planet on which there's a real chance of life? Well, maybe lichens; but the looks we've had at Venus and Mars make the outlook dark for "incontrovertible evidence that he isn't alone in the solar system".

Well, i've never read a James Bond novel. But after reading your discussion, i was led to pick up one at the rummage sale yesterday. '' One of the aspects of mechanical grammar in the journalistic profession that i object to is the rule that says numbers under ten are always spelled out, and those over are given in ideographs. When you say the depth of field is "seven to 50 feet", we have to translate the word into 7 before we can grasp the idea and compare it with the focus of 12 feet. By the way, what is the relationship that makes 12 midway between 7 and 50? I don't think it's logarithmic. '' f/11 at 1/100 for Kodachrome? Maybe so. I can tell you one kind of contemporary b&w that's that slow: microfilm.

QUATT WUNKERY (Wells)

Have you noticed how nurses will say "Doctor is out", as if "Doctor" were a proper name? A Seattle lawyer, expressing his profession's aspiration toward equal status with the medics, suggested that secretaries be trained to say "Lawyer is in conference", etc.

Although it's foolish to be nonconformist for the sake of nonconformity, being "consciously nonconformist" has at least this in its favor: A person who has done this is less likely to waste himself on things that are considered desirable but are not worth the trouble. He discovers that there are possibilities other than the conventional.

Your maps-math connection has this flaw: there's no pattern in maps. They are the epitome of randomness, except as they reflect culture.

Now that the mass blackballers have demonstrated the "potential for evil which people seem to be ignoring" in the blackball provision, some of them should see what they can do to demonstrate the potential for evil in other provisions of the constitution, such as waiver of activity requirements and the definition of credentials.

What is there in the East that you can't get elsewhere? Operas are now filmed just as they are performed. Music you can get on records; or if you itch to watch the musicians playing, they are sometimes shown on TV. Aware People? I should think in a town with a good college like Duke, there were a number of them.

How can the temponaut see and hear without interrupting the propagation of photons and sound waves that were destined to go on to somewhere else? If you want to postulate a black box that enables the temponaut to get information without interfering, this kind of contact with the future involves at least the possibility that seeing what was going to happen will cause the temponaut to act differently. Such contact with the past doesn't necessarily involve paradoxes, but it's not true time travel. You could get the same results, if faster-than-light is postulated, by going out to where the light rays that were never intercepted are winging through the void, as the Hero did in that story for which Joe Gilbert cooked up Unfamous Fantastic Mysteries and other titles.

Doesn't dramatic cartooning have free play in the comic magazines?

What were you thinking of when you said "History will conspire with you if you give it a chance"?

I wonder what kind of "axioms" Wysskowski was thinking about. Whether i agree with him depends on what he had in mind. And i'd sure like to ask him what he meant by saying "for life and the world to make sense".

What is your games magazine Lonely Mountain?

PANTOPON (Berman)

I used to look at fireworks catalogs that were sent to the American Legion post, and got the idea that the pyrotechnicians were able to make a starshell explode into the outline of George Washington, Old Glory, etc.

GRAND FENWICK GAZETTE (Wells)

I hope Lonely Mountain will concern other games than Diplomacy. This is the first Diplomacy magazine i've seen, and i enjoyed reading it for that reason.

Do the press releases play any part in the fighting of the game, or are they epiphenomena? I have no clear picture of how a game is played when all are present. Do they go off into conference rooms two by two to do their scheming?

I found a number of nits here. Some occurred in the heat of conflict--supposing that the stencils that look as bad as this one were cut in real time--such as "Dimplomacy", "apply arms", and "hoard" for "horde". But "I had expected to loose it" is one of those things that's probably a typo but could mean something as written. And i object to using the term "soft underbelly" to mean anything in the Mediterranean area but what it meant historically.

This magazine nearly tempted me into putting Civil War in FAPA. However, i'd rather wait until the war is completely over. This month the CSS Shenandoah steams up a dark English river to be turned over to the United States, but i've heard that a Confederate patrol in Dismal Swamp won't know the war is over until next summer.

NIEKAS (Meskys)

There sure is a lot of fandom outside FAPA. Much good stuff here, and considerable blithering too.

First, though, some nits: "we'd legislate 7 to be three" is even worse than the journalistic practice of which i complained. '' Maybe "Alderley" is a fictitious name, but since we can't rely on things being carefully spelled, i wonder if it was Alderney in the book, a real place. '' "civilian sapce business". '' On p50, why say "forty feet" and "two atmospheres" and then say "80 feet" and "3 atmospheres"? '' Szurek: "I sure as hell aren't". My children are, against my will (i have a Yankee wife), being taught to say "Aren't I?", but i hope they never combine that form with anything as colloquial as "sure as hell", because it's not colloquial. '' Brooks: "sacreligious" is incorrect. Does he think "sac" is some negative or antiprefix? '' Linwood: A pot-boiler is something written to pay the grocery bill. It couldn't refer to Dick's gratis article, and it doesn't mean mainstay. '' Berman: When you say "Shades of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle", what do you mean by "Shades"? '' Which form did you editors intend, "Patter Noster" or "Petter Noster"?

Well, i don't know whether i can sicken of egoboo, but as soon as something i do is praised, i lower my opinion of it, start finding reasons that it's not so good. An annoying habit.

Your remarks on wanting to be surprised on first seeing The Mikado bring up an interesting point in the nature of humor. There must be something unexpected in humor, and yet we can laugh at a G&S song we know by heart. I suppose we project ourselves into the viewpoint of someone who's never heard it before, or of someone in the play. '' Your observation of the way an actor can completely change the quality of a role reminds me of some Mr Novak episodes, especially the one with the teaching machines, which i suspect were utterly changed, by direction, casting, and acting, from what the writer intended, without changing a line. Occasionally Slattery does the same kind of thing, seeming to feel it necessary to tell the viewers, by the way something is presented, what they're supposed to think, while the writer was emphasizing that there are two sides to the question. Shakespeare, of course, can be interpreted countless ways.

What's a crink in your arm?

Dian's drawing of the distant view through a clothes closet is intriguing.

My main criticism of the Children's Fantasy Books article is that i could seldom be sure which of the authors went with the first-person "my shelf", "I prize", . I'd be reading along assuming it was principal author Walsted speaking, and suddenly there'd be an "I (RB)". I did, however, enjoy the conversations that showed the manuscript with insertions had been sent back to Mark. '' Is the poem The Walloping Window-Blind the same as the song A Capital Ship? I wonder if its Torribly Zone was borrowed from the Jumblies' Torrible Zone. '' "Andrew Lang is best known as the editor of the 'color' Fairy Books". You mean the Andrew Lang? Anyway, the morning after reading this article, i saw the Blue Fairy Tale Book at the AAUW rummage sale, and latched onto it.

I'm not sure i agree with Stephen Pickering that the potentialities of space-travel are more important than the furtherance of life spans, etc. True, if the elixir is discovered, something like space travel may be necessary to accommodate the population. But the problems of establishing colonies and emigrating are enormous. More of this anon. '' What means?: "And any furtherance of life spans in humanity would be suicidal if the subsequent perfection of quasi-immortality were done at the cost of actual life itself."

I enjoyed the news from Italy. '' What does "futuria fantasia" mean? Is it good Latin or anything?

Pournelle: In the first place, our government's officials have never admitted that it's important to beat the Russians to the moon; partly because it may not be, and partly because there's too big a chance that we'll have to eat our words. Also, the idea that the moon isn't much more hostile than Antarctica is a judgment with which most of us would probably disagree. Undeniably the cost of sending additional supplies to Luna is immeasurably greater than to Antarctica. But what really chills us about the Pilgrim project is that once a man was put on the moon, with no means at hand for returning, he'd be in the position of someone dependent on an artificial kidney. He could live indefinitely if nothing went wrong, but who wants to be in that position? It's an interesting point, that public opinion would be so horrified at putting a single life in jeopardy, when every week we send fliers into peril of something worse over North Vietnam; but that's the way we function. The shibboleth that a single human life is worth more than any assignable sum of money will doubtless break up someday, but i think it has been a good thing, keeping us from cold-hearted calculations in which money is weighed against people. '' Before i'll believe that it's terribly important to beat the Russians to the moon, someone will have to show that a colony could be established there immediately. This means finding a great many raw materials there, and also solving a technological bootstraps problem. Consider that a relatively advanced country such as Russia still has to import a lot of machine tools and parts from other countries, and that it is able to base its technological pyramid on the economic activity of two hundred million people, and then tell me how big a package it would take to deliver to Luna the minimal tools necessary to build a self-sustaining colony there. '' All the same, i hope to hell we get there first.

Showing page number in the table-of-contents section of an index is a simple and accurate way to show how long each piece is. '' Don Day's index is still available. He got another batch from the printer this year.

Avram speaks of Bok's "sister in Seattle", but i think she's his mother. Remarried. '' Ed, if you are the Lithuanian on whom Bok's astrology worked, i wish you'd tell us the details. It's all very well for Avram to tell us that Bok's astrology made some fantastic hits, but i'd rather have the data to judge for myself.

What are the examples of Atheist missionaries that Mark mentions? (That's Walsted i mean, not Saint.)

What's a schizoid affective? '' Are delusions of grandeur or persecution schizophrenic conditions? I thought paranoia and schizophrenia were rather distinct from each other. '' Like Bok's astrological marvels, Dick's telepathy under LSD needs proof. When a fan writes in a fanzine, "I experienced wonders", i give it more weight than i would an article in Fate, but i still want something not so subject to the doubts that usually surround such testimony. The best thing would be a bit of precognition, published and circulated before the event, an independent event. Until that's furnished, i'm likely to continue believing that thought is a chemical process that takes place within the brain, and precognition is impossible.

Hay: I don't know whether all people want at times to be accepted as members of a class, but i know i had for years a strong aversion to being labeled "the lawyer", as if that summed me up.

Alex Eisenstein says "there is no such word" as "interpretative". I'd like to see those extra syllables in such words dropped, but an attempt to banish them by saying there's no such word runs up against the authority of G & C Merriam. '' Wring out the old; brung in the new. Actually, "ring in" seems to have originated with change ringing.

Lerner: "Slen were telepathic, but not geniuses." Then why was the society of the tendrilless slans so superior to humans'?

Singleton: What's "abortive waiting"?

Are experimental results reproducible in astronomy? There must be some better criterion of a science.

Szurek: Crying down Brave New World is heresy.

What is Felice's projected textbook?

Herkart:

f liked "Everything is phrased in a very precise mathematical jargon that is defined to take care of the last exception and suffers as a result in not presenting the general picture very clearly." Believe it or not, there is a very similar problem in statute-writing.

Jackson: The observation that futuristic SF as we know it is incomprehensible to Hollywood fits with my observations about pioneer stf, such as Verne's, almost all occurring in the writer's present. The problem, of course, is to relate to something the audience is familiar with. This is the reason that most movies about elder days are cross operas. Such eventually made the Roman Empire familiar, and then it was possible to produce Spartacus et cetera. The Egyptian, a bolder probe into the past, began and ended with a reminder that this was a thousand summers ere the time of Christ.

MISLEADING GUIDELINES ON THESE STENCILS.

BREEN (Grennell)

You say this insensitivity to higher tones is an occupational hazard of ballistic researchers. Does the same thing frequently happen to soldiers? What about aviators?

I loved Help Stamp Out Flat Feet. Also the first limerick.

I wish you people who voted to make Breen a member would get together on the reason. You say no one should call in non-fannish authority. Bergeron seems to take the position--he never says anything directly, but he seems to take the position--that if one fan knows that another is violating the criminal code, he should report it to the police. The next time this kind of problem comes up, which of these doctrines should we follow?

How could there be murder in the first degree without intent? Whose intent--the gun's?

"So long as a religion does not inflict harm upon unwilling victims" is a deceptively simple formula. What if it destroys the public school system?

DOORWAY (Benford)

The Horace of a different culture was just about the best of those change-ringings. It seemed to develop naturally out of the conversation that preceded it, instead of being the raison d'etre thereof.

What had deep breathing to do with being President of the US?

Have i picked bits off you yet? Well, there's "mallable". And "toothpaste adverts" makes me wonder if you're English.

"the 'shell' theory--particles move in definite energy levels" doesn't sound like a theory about the structure of the nucleus, but maybe it is.

TELEKINETIC TERRACE TIMES REVISITED (Cox)

Is Charles Burbee an author?

"The Con actually started for Ed and I when ..." I think i'll make it my special campaign for the remainder of this Epimetheus to point out to people that a compound object takes the objective case.

Is "half-world" the name of the present LASFS meeting place? The name was given to an earlier location, verdad?

"had already went (a purposeful colloquailism, Jack Speer, nand the type is noted...)". Well okay, i can believe that you, for some inadequate reason, deliberately used "had went", and i suppose "the type is noted" was intended as an acknowledgment that you didn't intend to mention quail, but what about "nand" and "type"?

And, LeeJ, why the apostrophe in Busby's when you mean what EdCo correctly designates Busbys?

Back to Ed: I've probably beefed enough about the redundant "from whence" that people use, but "to whence" gives me a fresh injection, because it would mean "to from which place".

Too bad this has been mostly nitpicking, guys. I rather enjoyed the substance of your account, but there's not much to say about it.

PHANTASY PRESS

Isn't the cover artist Bob Stein of Milwaukee?

Is it appropriate to speak of Burroughs fandom as a sister-fandom? I rather regarded it as a part of s-f fandom. On the other hand, i consider monster fandom to be something apart from us.

Maybe postmen are hard-working and all, but ours never collects postage due from us.

We also have boxes of unsorted rocks, but i think we'll just use them as is. In this country, rock-floored flower beds are common, and we have one in front of our Albuquerque house. When we move back, we'll just rake out the common pebbles that fill it now, and pour in our fossils, jasper, opal, Apache tears, calcite, pumice, and other specimens.

I think the title you planned in 1937 was simply "Fandom". In those days this might be confused with "Science Fiction Fandom", but by presentday standards they are quite distinct.

The year the first rocket reaches the moon can't be 1970. It's already happened. Of course in days of yore we assumed the first rocket would be manned. I probably have the original IPO cards somewhere but i can't exactly lay my hands on them in half a minute. Shucks, you'd say they'd be unreadable anyway, because they were hektoed.

I'm surprised you say that photograph in SusPro was faded out. You been exposing the pages to the sun? Ordinarily, reposing in a file with other pages pressing against it should protect either photograph or hektoing from the air.

WRAITH

Is the Owatonna a ferryboat?

"4230 U way is three doors north of the Post Office". Man, you are lost in the big city. Unless they've moved the PO, it was on the NW corner of the block. Three doors north of that would be in the block with the Bookstore.

Alas, Tom Tyler also played a bad guy in the last movie i saw him in. That's what happens to good cowboys: they lose the bloom of youth, and Hollywood makes villains of them.

I hope you will respond to the challenge put to someone else by Jim this mailing, to document with figures the assertion that raises give you no more takehome pay.

MELANGE (Trimble)

Your wife shielded you from my last nitpicking, but she can't protect you from this one: "from whence". "a lusty vigoresness (howzzat for a neat word!)" It'd be sounder spelled "vigorousness", and neater chopped down to "vigor". "wavier". "for Bjo & I". "the most logical man ... than the author". (Often extra words make people forget the syntax of what they're writing. It's not likely you'd have made the last error if the ellipsis had been there instead of "to call upon for its interpretation"; and it's very unlikely you'd have written "for I".)

Didn't they get worked up over another bit of Sneary humor, the decree that "where old fans go to die" be banned from FAPA material? Or was that Laney?

SYRACUSE IN 66 (Trimble)

I'm curious about the "Richard Wilson: Fan turned pro, Director of Public Information at Syracuse U. publicity contacts." This sounds a bit like Dick Wilson, publisher of SFNL and author of The Girls from Planet X etc; but i thought he lived in Washington, as chief of Look's Wn bureau and a syndicated columnist.

ADDITIONAL EXTACY (Harness)

I didn't know that Kevin Langdon and Walter Breen had "grown to dislike each other"; wasn't Kevin one of the most belligerent boycotters who attended the Pacificon 2?

Rapport is spelled with two pps. Ordinarily i don't mention mere misspellings, but when you keep underlining it (unnecessarily; it's naturalized), the word's misspelling stands out.

"Then I was droning or spinning around". Did you mean "droning" or something else?

What is worship? What is the good of it?

These accounts indicate that the human mind can get into some pretty weird conditions, but so far i haven't seen any specific testimony that, assuming it to be accurate, establishes that anything is going on outside the chemical processes in the brain cells and auditory communication between the persons taking part.

SPIANE (Sneary)

Was that the John Cockroft of New Zealand?

"Not knowing how to use it the jelly got harder". Well, no wonder, if you expected the jelly to know how to use itself. "a mathums collector like Wilson and I."

I wonder if your flatbed ditto is the same kind i had circa 1939. In it, a long strip, coated somewhat as filmograph films were coated, was run between rollers so that ink could be sinking into the surface at several places while there were still page-size lengths available for immediate use. The cover was hinged in the middle so it could be used to lay down copy paper and press it flat. Come to think of it, it was hekto, not ditto.

WHITE DEER (Ellern)

Is this "Tears of Our Lady" some alien source you're quoting from, or something of your own? If your own, i'd like to ask what's a capiz shell.

POE FATHER OF SCIENCE FICTION (Martinez)

"the cold-facts pseudo-scientific yarn". I don't think s-f fans should ever use "pseudo-scientific" except in referring to trash such as Fantastic Adventures.

Your strict division of the field into supernatural fantasy, in which "the basic element ... is fear", and strict science-fiction, leaves out much. An obvious omission is pure fantasy in which the reaction sought is not fear, as in Dunsany's stories. Another omission is juvenile s-f, of which it is far from truth to say "Always ... the author must adhere to the unwritten law of the genre. He must adhere to rigid scientific principles." I recently read The Lemonade Trick which one of my kids brought home, apparently part of a series. The protagonist was given a chemistry set by an old lady called Graymalkin, which might imply a pure-fantasy explanation, but his brainy friend said more likely it was simply that the chemicals changed their properties because they were old. The effect was to make bad boys good.

It's amusing to read that Poe sarcastically advised the addition of quotations in a foreign language. He is the worst offender in that whom i know. At what should have been the smashing conclusion of The Purloined Letter, for example, he inserted a couple lines of French that made no sense to someone who couldn't read French (as i when i first read it) and little to one who could.

Mellonta Tauta contained an egregious example of the oldtime s-f writer's enslavement to his time. It concluded with a remark that one of the two leaders of the Amriccans was Zachary Taylor, which betrays less perspective in Poe than in my Whig ancestor. The relation of another time to Poe's day was more excusable in The Thousand-and-Second Tale of Scheherazade because he wanted to support the scientific marvels with footnote references to the latest records for speed, etc.

What do you mean by "rules and conventions as stringent as those of the detective story"?

The connection between Poe and Verne is closer than i had realized.

KIM CHI (Ellington)

Pat's simple cattail drawing was very good.

Do anarchists object to constitutions in voluntary organizations such as apas and labor unions?

Do they object to laws requiring smog control devices on cars?

What do Eskimos do for Vitamin C? I'd think they'd have scurvy all the time.

You may underestimate the chances of Lichtman (if he hadn't 4Fd) 's seeing combat. There are above a hundred thousand GIs in Viet Nam now, of whom probably the greater part go out where they can be shot at. In a million-man army that's a larger ratio than one in several hundred.

If you only thumbed through it, how do you know Full Length Articles was merely rehashing the same old material? I'll bet there's some information in it new even to you--for instance, did you know about his editing the magazine for pederasts?--and for people that know less about Breen's acknowledged activities, such as the fellows in New York who say he didn't do nothing, there should be a great deal more. '' Next thing i know, you'll be objecting to re-examinations of the Sacco-Vanzetti and Hiss cases.

VANDY (Coulson)

I'm surprised, Buck, that you've given up the idea that you will travel to exotic lands. Unless the reason is that there are no exotic lands any more.

And now The Man from Uncle has its own parodies, of which Get Smart seems to have a very high rating currently.

How can different drinks have such different effects when the active agent is the same in all, ethanol?

Your simile, Juanita, is hard to put in one-to-one relation with the Breenigan. When you say "local statute would have enabled him to toss the threat out of the county" you seem to be referring to the Pacificon situation, since some fen think the committee could have expelled Breen without a hearing. So your "but it had to go to trial" seems to refer to the hearing before the ConCommittee. But the decision there was against him, remember? So when you say "The jury ... voted acquittal" you seem to have changed the frame of reference to FAPA. However, what happened here was more like the action of a mob bent on busting Breen out of jail before he could be arraigned. That succeeded, so that there never was a job, sloppy or otherwise, of "presentation and preparation"; the accused never even answered "Guilty" or "Not guilty". A long way from any such analogy is the "trial by fanzine" in FAPA. (Incidentally, i think i erroneously attributed that phrase to Rick Sneary. I believe its first use was by WC Lewis in The Loyal Opposition.) This is in its nature a continuing thing. If there's any prescribed cutoff point i'm not aware of it.

LIGHTHOUSE (Carr)

It's too bad if Hannes lived on cornflakes and coleslaw, when oatmeal gives so much more for the money.

Every time i see the title "Minor Drag" i wonder a little more what it means to Pete and why he uses it. '' Nonsense, Pete; your beard grows at the same rate each day.

If Tolkien only sold the first British publication rights to the publisher there--which is possible--i wonder if he wouldn't have a

legitimate grievance against someone. '' "we're perfectly willing to pay" doesn't sound too reassuring when such payment would probably be on Ace's terms. '' The Burroughs reprints don't seem to present the same moral problem because ERB is dead.

I don't know who Roderic C. Hodgins is, but "the anti-semitism of the intellectual" is an old line. OB's Raft-car comparison is good.

I'll bet those old books didn't use grave accents on "employe" and "employes". This is another word of which the prevailing form has become English, without diacritical markings, in our time. '' The style reminds me even more of Mark Twain, which perhaps establishes a similarity between him and Burbee.

What's a "foklie place"? '' Do big bullets travel noticeably farther in relation to velocity than small ones?

Davidson: No, Pondichery joined India in 1954. However, the rupee may not have been its monetary unit in 1951.

Ryan: Is it no longer considered to be true that curing one tic will lead to a different one popping out? '' I think it would make a great deal of difference if delusions are external perceptions instead of being internally generated. '' Terry, i'm surprised at your comment: "Who the hell says a paranoid isn't able to function? Stop making cracks like that, or next time I'll cut your letter." It doesn't sound like you're joking, but Ryan's remark, even if ill thought out, hardly seems to justify such a reaction.

Perry: The remarks about a 17-year-old Carol Willis are very perceptive. I can't imagine what her friends think of Walt, but it must be very alien to our knowledge.

Zerbe: Does Ranch Romances have the same problems as s-f in outliving the pulp era--distribution, newsrack space, ktp?

Ellison: This letter was surprising not only because he took Gina seriously but also because he denounces a kind of oneupmanship of which i had thought him a practitioner. '' I wonder if he dangles participles in his fiction like "having written it the best way I knew how, they kept it off the air".

I think the rate of change in fandom slowed down greatly after its first decade, because it pretty well found the role it was to fill. I see very little difference between 1960 and 1965. Surely there were in 1960 just about as many "articles about archaeology, cultural trends, politics, music, history in general, personal experiences of all types, personal philosophies, and the whole gamut of what man can find of interest."

There's nothing wrong with the round-robin idea except the intelligence that is currently being applied to it. In its great day, when people like Chauvenet were on chains, it was the medium of stimulating intellectual discussions and sparkling wit.

I didn't see any Frankenstein jr on the bacover; only a monster.

SYNAPSE

First, the confessional: On p10 i wrote "what they want the preserve" when i meant "... to preserve". And on p15 i left an l out of "Traveller".

My concern to find a liberal policy that even Boardman would repudiate was wasted. I have since seen an editorial in which, misrepresenting the liberal position on many issues, he proclaimed that he was not a liberal. Presumably he is a radical as described by Caughran.

I'm glad i was on record three months ago in defense of the War on Poverty. At that time the thought that i might personally benefit from it had not occurred to me; but since then not only does it appear that the bar may be subsidized with a program of legal services for the poor (would that it were retroactive), but also is my wife teaching a kindergarten of the underprivileged (she has many stories about their unreadiness for school.)

I now have that material from Webster I. Where Webster II said, "except when the possessive form is lacking or would be awkward and when the action is felt as attributive", Webster I said: "except in constructions where a possessive would be awkward, or where a participial construction is suggested; as, 'On the general and his staff appearing.' Oxf. E. D. 'We read . . . of Cato tearing out his entrails.' Macaulay." The latter is what you were talking about, Bill, in "There is Boardman, trying to dismiss..." I also avoid the possessive when using it would seem to imply that something exists which does not. An example in the last Synapse is: "There follow some statements about Buz eliciting confidences from people and then threatening to reveal them".

A PROPOS DE RIEN (Caughran)

It belatedly occurs to me that this title on a commentzine is not very complimentary.

I was going to say Whoa there when you said "By the induction hypothesis, the remaining k - 1 horses all have the same color", but i'm glad you went on to the conclusion. I guess we won't have finished riding that horse as long as geniuses like you and Raeburn are still around.

That seems a very clumsy and undependable way of testing for life on Mars. '' I suppose if life isn't found elsewhere in the Solar System, pious people will say this proves that God specially created it on Earth.

It seems to me that the producer is not to the TV production exactly the same as the publisher to the book, in relation to the writer.

Was Tonto called "Big Tonto"?

I agree with your remarks on Kennedy, and wonder why you capitalized He in the middle of a sentence.

I loved the vindshield viper, mudguard serpent, and radiator faan.

ASP

Eklund sure spells by ear, and a not very fine ear. "soully", and "it never heards to try". I can't figure how he got "Of you're next expecting anything" for "If you're not expecting anything", and he seems rather persistent with "firned".

Tut, even George Babbitt knows you don't say "Sir Raleigh".

ANKUS

The place from which Willis unexpectedly saw Mt Rainier must have been the Echo Lake interchange just west of North Bend, though it can also be glimpsed at Issaquah. '' What time is "half seven in the morning" in UKese?

DESCANT (Clarke)

Does the McGill University method of stimulating playback with an electrode yield the dreams one dreamt at the time? I slightly had the impression that it played back only what was consciously perceived, and not inner thoughts.

I hadn't heard about the mayor of Selma's after-midnight integration, and i don't know what the Murphy game is.

How can you tell from the spoken language that the Eskimos are speaking long accreted words instead of sentences of several words? What is a word?

I saw a poll recently that indicated while Americans' attitudes on segregation have softened, they are slightly tougher than before on intermarriage. People can get considerably more riled than they are now; not the extremists you've already heard about, but a lot of working-class people in the penumbra.

Maybe a kitten doesn't realize it's a kitten. Still, when it sees another kitten in the mirror, you'd think it would be interested.

A gin isn't a cottonpicker. It separates the seed from the fiber, but after Eli Whitney invented the gin came the biggest century and a half of picking cotton from the field by hand.

I used a dixionary, Gina, but all i could make of your note was "I ttn usn grter". Too bad you British are so conservative you still learn Pitman. If you wrote Gregg, think of the corespondence we could exchange under Norm's nose.

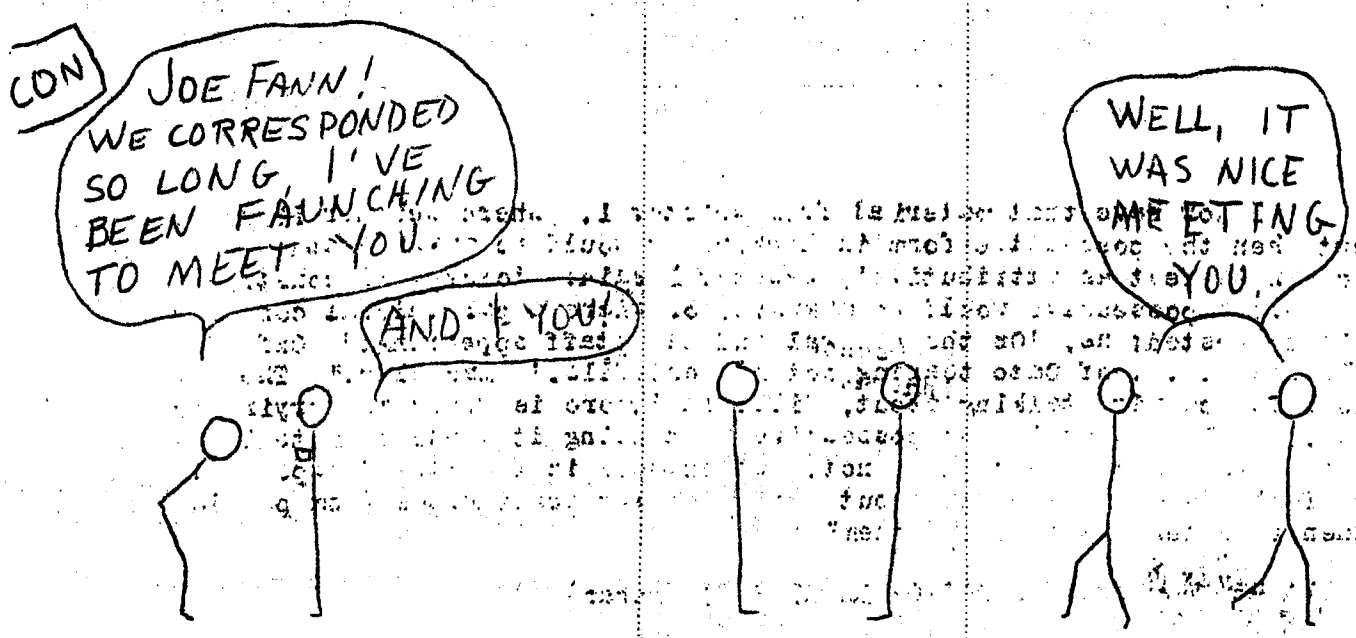
Your typos this time were disappointing. "shrung", "rataliation", nothing one can philosophize about.

Norm, your attempt to put yourself in my class agewise won't go. According to your wife, she's 9 shy of 30, and you're only 4 years older than she.

Other religions can hardly be unaware of the Catholic, the way the latter is smeared all over the popular press. Moreover, they have no rules against learning about other religions, something that is frowned on in the One True Church. '' Were the Reverend Fathers moral cruds right at the church? '' Your burlesq was better than one that Burton Crane did on an earlier dialog.

SAVE JOHN BAXTER (Bergeron)

About this time, some people may be saying we should stop granting these indulgences every time someone has a good reason. I think they ignore the negative instances. When someone doesn't have a good reason for asking a waiver, he doesn't ask for it. What is a good reason could never be adequately defined in the constitution, so we fall back on the common sense of members when asked to vote a special rule or waive sustaining activity for a particular year.



SE DICE

Harold Palmer Piser:

I am gathering every fragment of information I come across, noting it on my cards, now have 22 boxes of cards working, to be followed up if and when I get an address to write to, work-sheets go into correspondence file, to be used later, final make-up sheets not to be made out until after verification.

Roy Tackett:

Chrysler cars (Plymouth, Dodge, etc) have opposite type lug nuts on opposite sides of the car. ... I can't remember offhand which is which but one side does unscrew clockwise while the other unscrews counterclockwise. ...

Rather than blame the temperature for the offset you'll probably find the actual culprit to be the humidity or the lack thereof. /Donaho says i should get cheaper paper, more absorbent. But i have several reams of this lousy high-quality paper to use up./

Long haired Greeks? Ummmm. Alexander--much later than Homer, of course,--observed that the enemy found Greek (or Macedonian, if you prefer) beards handy handles to hang onto while bashing in the heads to which the beards were attached and so ordered that all hands /must have been as hairy as Esau's/ would be clean shaven. And they were. ...

Tarzan's French mentor was Paul D'Arnot. /Of course! And Raskolnikov was the protagonist of Crime and Punishment. I still can't remember the name of the villainous Russian in The Return of Tarzan./ I'm afraid The Ancient Cry passed over my head. Lots of familiar names but..... /I'll give you a hint: With how many different authors would you associate the names?/

Virginia Heinlein, on a query about turning the rolling roads around:

Mr. Heinlein tells me that he visualized "Diego Circle" and "Reno Circle" as being about fifteen miles in radius.

Carl Brandon of Stockholm:

Here we go again about my quote in the Cadenza lettercolumn, I see. Oh well--I guess I did express myself very poorly in that letter, so I must have earned this having to explain it all over again. What I meant was simply that I can't understand what made the Americans bann Lolita. /Maybe in Boston, but it was available elsewhere./ I did not mean that I'll accept anything, as you presumes--quite the contrary, there are lots of things which I will not accept--only that I'm all for the abolition of censorship in its "legal" shape, i.e. censorship as it is handled by a Select Group choosen by the government as knowing all about what people should be permitted to read, see and listen to. I simply don't like this system, and I don't think it has any actual reason for existing: those who want to get pornography will probably get it anyhow, and those who are said to be protected by censorship would probably not suffer that greatly, were it abolished: /Some experts say that reading serves as a substitute for doing./ cf. Sweden, where pornography has been printed and sold rather cheaply (and very pornographic pornography it is, too) this last year /There goes De Camp's theory that the most northern countries are the most puritanical/ --there has been no notice whatsoever of any exceptionally bad influence this may have had, the criminal percentage of the population has not increased, nor have the sexual crimes--there just hasn't been any bad effect. Excepting maybe that at no time earlier have bad writers made so much money on very bad literature. /Better look at Berkeley fandom before you say that./

Also I have been told (as to that damn quote again) that a girl of 14 is generally as sexually developed as one of 16--which is presumably one of the reasons which made Nabokov write that line. /It seems a stupid reason./ Also, by the way, Sweden has put the line at 15 years, whereas I believe several African and Asian states have no such "line" at all. /If the age of consent is to be set that low, the idea might as well be abandoned./

Note however that I do not advocate any kind of free love for all, regardless of sex or age. I'm simply not that cultural. (That should perhaps be explained: in Sweden, a book was published last year called "The Sexual Minorities" written by a Dr. Ullerstam. This book gave the case histories of several sexually perversed persons--by all means not only of nymfomaniacs, homosexuals, masochists, sadists etc., but also of some <u>really</u> strange perversions--plus a lot of hogwash written by Dr. Ullerstam who among other things advocate Complete Sexual Freedom. Which means; all these patients should have their absolute right to express their perversions whenever they felt like it, and they should also if possible be aided by society --the Good Doctor advocated the fpunding of state owned brothels for all kinds of different perversions. Naturally, this book caused quite a stir up among the intellectuals, but after a while it all calmed down and it was possible to notice that the very greater part of the pro intellectuals were all for Ullerstam's ideas--and all since then, we've all been fed articles telling us what a hard life all these poor people who'd just die to be able to make love to a corpse have to lead, and oughtn't society <u>do</u> something for them? Yecch--but still, that's it.)

I guess it must have been pretty terribly hot when you mimeographed my copy of Synapse. Still, it was almost legible all way through, which I guess must be some sort of a miracle; the show-through has almost all put itself between the lines of actual text, so you can still read most everything. /They may not have all been that bad. When making up extra copies to send outside FAPA, i sometimes dip into crud sheets./

Talking of Atlantis as you do in several places this fanzine, I recently met a former Swedish fan who is now one of the BNFs of Scandinavian Flying Saucerdom. ... The thing I found most amazing in all the mess was that his sect had actually managed to mix just about everything into their faith--they even believe in Shaver and his Mysteries, by Ghod!--and still think it's very logic and very obvious. I just don't get it; after all, the guy I spoke to was known as a very sensible and extremely intelligent individual while he was a fan, and I can't think he's turned from an objective advocate of logic into a raving maniac (which was what he resembled most, to be honest) in only a very short time--three or four years at the most. /One of the ingredients Carl mentioned is astrology./

About the liberalism in absurdum; a recent Swedish book about the Swedish bottom class suggests quite serously a whole bunch of Great Things that should be done, like: no longer punishing any criminal younger than 21 years of age ("those youngsters are obviously not criminals, they're just rebelling against society"), no longer punishing any common theft ("instead, the government should pay damages & let the thief keep the things he stole"), beginning to give a regular payment to those refusing to get a job though physically healthy ("they're just not like us, & as we live in a democratic country they, too, should have their freedom to do what they like, not having to starve just because of their being different")--and so on. There's lots of things like these.

It's really a depressing book. It got raving reviews in all the papers. One magazine even recommended it as an "indispensable handbook for social workers". Sweden sure is a wonderful country. /That's further along the road of evolution than i want to go./

Ted Pauls:

Your question to Wells on page five intrigued me, since I'm something of a history buff. The two presidents were easy: Jefferson Davis (CSA) and Sam Houston (Republic of Texas). You could also add a third--David G. Burnet, the first President of the Republic of Texas. /Also the president who thought up the illfated Santa Fe expedition, which Houston opposed as long as he was in office./ The queen gave me some trouble, though. At first, I was wracking my brain trying to recall if any European sovereigns had ever established capitals in exile in what is now the U.S. /as in Brazil/, but eventually it occurred to me that Hawaii had a monarchy for about a century after its discovery by the West. I can't guarantee the spelling, but I suppose the queen in question is Queen Liliuokalani /correct, even to the spelling/. Now here's one for you: what is the present capital of the French colonial empire in North America? /St Pierre?/

Dwain Kaiser:

Could you please fix a mistake you made in your last Synapse? The mistake was on my statement/LoC which you printed in the issue. I will agree that my statement, as it stands, has little meaning by itself, but if you will remember I spent at least an hour, and more than likely longer, talking to you on this subject at the Westercon. ...

Now, if you feel my conclusions are that important, you may feel free to restate my arguments..... /Well, i remember that you thought instead of writing what i did, i should have reprinted statements already issued. You thought more should have been said about the way Donaho handled the matter. You thought Anapselos conceded points too readily; when i asked whether, for example, he should have argued longer the proposition that Breen is a homosexual, you hesitated and i don't know whether you eventually answered because at this point someone who hadn't been following the conversation horned in. None of this seems adequately summerized in "it all breaks down to too one sided a slanting."/ I am glad you fixed the mistake on the number of copies ditto will run off.....I've printed 200/ readable ... copies of my ditto fanzine in the past, and could have gotten more. More than 60 copies are possible from ditto even with the cheapest, shortrun ditto masters.

John Boardman, in his usually style sounded mad. I can easy have pictured a lawsuit over this whole matter, before now, but at this late date, well.....fugghead is a nice fannish word and it fits. I doubt if you could do what Boardman told you to, or did you keep a mailing list? /Yes, but i wouldn't have used it. I wanted to see his four flush?/ ...

/I have heard, Dwain, that last summer you said you would never have supported Walter in any way if you had thought he was guilty. Now that you've seen the Breenigan article, i'd like to know how you reconcile the evidence gathered there with any other view of the facts. Or have you changed your idea of the seriousness of men making out with boys?/

Dick Bergeron:

What confessions of Breen. Chapter & verse now. /In saying "Chapter & verse" you seem to exclude his oral confessions, to which Boardman referred. All right. Podium, pp. 6 and 7: "I think the whole business about the legal age of consent, for girls or boys is crud. ... If kids were let free to fool around with each other or with friendly adults, they'd learn quickly enough that there are many ways to have fun. ... I'm bisexual too, and I enjoy many different kinds. I only ask that it come out of friendship and not for money."/

"If I didn't know you're a strong Union man, John," said the officer in plain clothes, "I'd hesitate to sit amid your marvels of natural philosophy. They look deadly."

The scientist took a chair beside him and answered, "Don't doubt me. I want to see justice done to both the oppressor and the oppressed, even more than you, I think."

"To me it's just a job." Baker jumped when the glass plate in front of them brightened.

"Ah, it's warmed up." John began moving controls on the table below the glass. Glancing sidewise at the other, he said, "Nothing to be alarmed about, Lafe."

"Nothing to be alarmed about! You drew quite a spark from that elec-- whatever it was--"

"Electrophorus?"

"And you tell me you used it hundreds of times to charge these accumulators, so I must suppose there's a very dangerous spark in them."

"No danger if you know how to handle it." The inventor watched the glass closely. "That looks like the theater, and now I'll move the picture ahead to tonight. Put out the lamp so we can see better."

The windowless room and the glass both darkened, but a glow grew on the glass as the view moved up to the gaslit theater front. It was worked along narrow halls until they looked across a private box to the stage, then tilted so that the gesticulating players came into view, half obscured by draperies of the loge. The center of the picture was occupied by empty seats.

Colonel Baker made a startled sound, and said, "Is that the right box?"

"We were there yesterday."

"Yes, I recognize it. But where's the President?"

"Something's gone wrong, and it's well that we know it; now we can remedy it. Let's see if he's over at the White House."

After some time, the view swept through the front of the White House and moved to the second floor and southeast corner. An ungainly figure leaned across a desk while two men who sat opposite talked earnestly.

"Can we get sound?" the Secret Service man asked.

There was a blast of noise from somewhere behind the glass plate. Turned down, it became voices.

"They felt that until Johnston surrenders, the legislature could not with honor revoke the ordinance of secession. However, we understand now that he is negotiating, an agreement will be concluded any time, and we are keenly disappointed that you have directed that the legislature not be allowed to meet. In Richmond you intimated a more charitable attitude toward the South."

The uncouth voice said: "Well, gentlemen, I'll take the responsibility for changing the orders, of course, but so that you may understand, that wasn't altogether my doing. In his family, a father and husband often has to do things that he doesn't like, in order to keep the peace. It's that way in my official family. Mr. Stanton and some of the others were quite insistent that I disapprove anything that seemed to repudiate the Alexandria government and recognize yours as the true legislature of Virginia. What I propose now is to have new elections, and thus constitute a body that will truly represent the people of the state."

One of the Virginians licked his lips nervously. "What people will be allowed to vote, Mr. Lincoln?"

"That was set forth long ago in the amnesty proclamations and the reconstruction act."

The shorter of the two visitors said, "What about the Negroes, Mr. President?"

"The Emancipation Proclamation made them free throughout the greater part of the state. That will be enforced now. But it didn't make them citizens nor give them the right to vote."

Both visitors let out their breath. Lafayette Baker, watching, uttered an angry exclamation, but his friend merely sneered, "I knew he was a weakling." He was adjusting the controls again, moving up and changing the angle to look at a piece of paper that lay on the President's desk. It read:

Richmond, Va., April 14, 1865
11 A.M.

President of the United States:
Mr. R. M. T. Hunter has just arrived under the invitation signed by General Weitzel. He and Judge J. A. Campbell wish a permit for their visit to you at Washington, I think, with important communications.

E. O. C. Ord
Major General

"That's why Abe isn't at the theater," said the scientist.

Baker pulled out his watch. "That telegram is being sent right about now. The telegraph office is in the War Department. If I hurry, the Secretary may be able to delay the delivery of the message."

"Don't be seen, Lafe. You're supposed to be in New York."

It was late afternoon before Baker returned. "The boss was about to leave for a damned cabinet meeting. When he got back, he arranged for the message to show that it was received this evening."

"I'm vastly relieved," John said, handing him a glass of sherry. "After you left this morning, I projected the view ahead into the far future, to see what would be consequences if Abraham Lincoln were not removed." He took a sip from his own glass. "As late as I looked, 1885, the freedman had still not gained his rights. Think of it! People who are now hopeful children, who see a new day dawning, would have reached maturity without ever knowing freedom and equality."

"It'd be hard for our party to stay in power if the South were voting for the Democrats. I wonder if Johnson as president will be any better. He's a Southerner at heart, and you can't trust them."

"Have a care," said John goodnaturedly. "I'm from the South too, you know. Johnson and I are from the true South of small farmers and mechanics. That South has always been exploited by the aristocracy, but if Reconstruction is made as harsh as it should be, that South will refuse to identify with the slavocracy and suffer for its crimes. Instead we'll join with the freedmen to build a new society." Baker tapped his glass to see if it would ring, and his host refilled it. "Well, those were rash predictions, and we need not guess when we can know. Before we go in to supper--you will join me, won't you?--let's take a look to make sure that things will go as planned tonight after all. Then if the accumulators aren't depleted we can look further ahead and see whether I'm overly optimistic."

As the screen warmed up, the inventor explained: "You understand that the machine shows us what was going to happen, without considering any changes that may result from our seeing what we're about to see and acting accordingly. If I tried to design it to do that, it would have to make an infinite regress, and wouldn't function. So I put into it the assumption that the accumulators discharge into the floor the moment I turn it on. Thus we can see what would happen otherwise, and we may if need be again change the future."

Once more they were looking at the stage across the President's box, but this time Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and two younger people were occupying the seats. Sound came on, and words floated up from the stage, "No heir to the fortune?"

The scientist was looking at the younger man in the box. "That's not Grant."

"No, Stanton sent him away. Makes it easier."

"What time will Booth strike?"

"Quarter after ten."

"We're very close, then."

They watched, and as the audience roared with laughter, the picture was blotted out by something dark. It moved into the box and became the outline of John Wilkes Booth, became a profile presenting a deringer at Lincoln's head.

The two watchers jumped as the gun went off. "Sic semper tyrannis!" exclaimed the screen.

Through the smoke they saw the actor grappling with the other man in the box, then he broke away. "Revenge for the South!" Booth rolled over the railing of the loge. He disappeared for a minute, and they had time to look at the President slumped in his chair. When Booth came into sight on the stage, he was hobbling.

"What's wrong?" Baker asked.

"I think he caught his spur in a flag or drape. The bungler!"

Booth limped across the stage, trying to run. Someone screamed. A man in the front row scrambled up onto the stage. People came out of the wing toward which the assassin was headed. He stumbled and fell.

"Let's look at it from another angle." The scientist spun controls. From in front of the loge they watched again as Booth dropped to the stage. John ran the sequence back a second and froze the picture.

"There it is, his right spur. If you warn him to be careful of that, he can get away clear."

"He must get away! There must be no interrogation!"

"Where's Booth now?"

"I don't know. Can you use that machine to find him?"

"The accumulators are nearly exhausted."

"I'll find him." Baker went out, and the scientist began recharging the accumulators.

Hours later the colonel returned, meeting his host in the front hall. He dropped onto a couch and said, "Caught up with him finally. He was in a saloon, waiting for the time. I didn't try to explain how I knew, but he said he'd give the spurs to whomever was holding his horse."

"You didn't happen to see Hanscom of the National Republican in your search, did you?"

"I saw him in the dining room at the National Hotel, but didn't let him see me. He's probably heard I'm supposed to be in New York."

"He must have seen you, or someone that you talked to. Something led him to drop around to the White House tonight. There he was given Ord's telegram, and he delivered it to Abe about ten minutes ago. The ape shambled out to the dress circle to read it and write out an answer. Booth was just coming up the stair. His plans were upset, and he never made his move."

Baker rose to his feet, horrified. "John, I swear I don't know what I did that could have affected him."

"Don't feel badly. No one can predict the train of associations in another man's mind. Incidentally, there was an unsuccessful attack on Secretary Seward by one of Booth's bungling friends. Word of that reached the theater a minute ago, and the presidential carriage will be on the way

to the White House now." John checked his watch. "After he alights, if he goes inside, he'll be beyond reach. Right now his only guard is that incompetent Parker." The hand that returned the watch drew out a Colt revolver and he turned the cylinder, checking the chambers.

"John, you mustn't do this. We can find someone else in place of Booth."

"We must stop the baboon before he gets those Rebels up here and makes commitments to them. And I can't depend on anyone but myself to perform a task, it seems."

"You'll involve the rest of us if you're caught!"

"If I'm caught, all they'll know is that a Southerner killed the President."

"Do you want to be remembered that way?"

"I don't care how the world remembers me. But you, Lafe, tell my grandchildren the truth. I do care about their opinion. Tell them why I did it. We tried to use a tool, John Booth, and he blundered" --he dropped the pistol into his pocket and tapped his chest-- "so John Boardman, one of those who believed in the cause, had to do it." He put on his hat and went out the door.

"Seventy-one dollars ... one one one ... seventy-two ... two two two

Santa Fe is an art center, and the local paper has a Sunday section appealing to literate people. A regular column therein is not where you would expect to find Philistinism of the Tulsa-Tribune type. So i think this outburst is interesting:

"When historians, Art and otherwise, look back upon the mid-years of the twentieth century they will come to the conclusion that these years represent the most decadent period culturally in the story of civilization. Gone the great eras of painting, sculpture; gone the great writers, philosophers, dancers and dramatists. From the graceful movements of ballet and waltz, the modern dance resembles nothing so much as the death convulsions of a flock of decapitated chickens. Literature has degenerated into stark pornography unadorned by either wit or wisdom. What we are left with is stale panem and moth eaten circenses.

Strangely enough only a very small percentage of the people set the tone of civilization; the poor are always poor and actually over the world have progressed very little in the past several thousand years. So the culprits are the rich and supposedly knowledgeable citizens, the scholars and modern savants and, of course, the artists themselves. The quacks, queers and curators who have perpetrated this gargantuan fraud upon the literate public are the greatest anti-cultured group of all time. They are befuddled by their own gobbledegook and double-talk jargon, all without valid meaning; indeed, usually without any meaning at all.

And all this at a time when the middle class of the western countries is for the first time aware of and interested in art in all its varied forms. What are they shown? Solid black canvases (great integrity), welded automobile parts (marvelous social commentary), paintings of soup cans, papier-mache hamburgers and assorted grotesqueries. Senseless poetry, four-letter fiction, dunderhead drama, the boob-tube and a host of cultural devils are worshipped by those arbiters upon whose shoulders is carried the dishonor of our twentieth century dark age. ...

...

... wheeler roundit ... seventy-three ... rellarolla ... Sold --American."

WHY CAN'T JOHNNY READ?

I received a couple of short letters from John Boardman in 1963 and one in 1964, also sporadic Operation Agitation mailings, on which i commented. Then, as readers of Synapse know, i had a letter from him in July of this year, which ended as follows:

> Finally, I wish to address myself to the accusations you have made against my own veracity. On p. 4, you state that "Boardman, among other things" (not specified, and in fact not existent) "that were not true, reported that Boucher was going to host a non-vention". I do not recall whether I may have speculated in correspondence on whether any west coast pros were going to host a non-vention, but in Pillycock #9 I discussed this matter and presented in that publication the facts of the case.
>
> You have attributed to me fabrications which do not exist. Before 15 September 1965 you will publish a retraction of these charges, and send them to all persons to whom you sent "The Breenigan After One Year". You will also inform them that Pillycock #9 may be obtained from me on request.
>
> I want to make sure that you understand me in this. I am not asking you what you want to do, or suggesting what you ought to do. I am telling you what you will do.

In the course of my answer, i said:

> I'm puzzled by "fabrications which do not exist". Are you denying that you said "Boucher ... will be one of the hosts of the Non-Vention"? Or are you instead denying that you made any other mistakes in discussing the Breen scene? No doubt you eventually got the facts about the Non-Vention straight (though I find no explicit retraction by you in Pillycock 9), but clearly you had them wrong at first. Since I cited this only to show that making mistakes isn't the same thing as being a liar, I don't see why you have steam up. Of course I will do nothing to make your prediction "you will publish a retraction" come true.

Boardman answered:

> As soon as you publish a retraction of the accusation of lying which you have made against me, I will be glad to discuss with you the other matters in your letter of 26 July.

I published this in Synapse, with the following remark:

> The passage of which he complains reads as follows: "Opponents of the ConCommittee's policies have made errors that tend to slant in <u>their</u> favor too, quite innocently I believe. For example Boardman, among other things that were not true, reported that Boucher was going to host a non-vention." If Boardman can produce anyone other than John Boardman who interprets this as a charge of lying, I'll straighten him out.

I sent Synapse to Boardman, and shortly received a couple more mailings of Operation Agitation publications. I commented on these, and received the following:

Dear John /one of Boardman's obscurer ploys lately is emphasizing the similarity between his name and mine/,

The enclosed letter was sent to me by mistake, in place of the apology which you owe me for calling me a liar.

I answered:

Busby has been saying that Johnny can't read, and I'm beginning to believe it. I suppose you haven't read the latest Synapse which I sent you. However, if you apply yourself, you may be able to spell out the offer on the last page, of which I enclose an extra copy.

There has been nothing further. One must conclude that the or-else Boardman had in mind back of his ferocious demand for an apology was that John Boardman would stop corresponding with me.

So be it. This attitude indicates a breakdown in communication on a level far more fundamental than a difference of opinion about Breen. It is pathetic, however, to see a man claiming that he does this because he has been called a liar. The real reason is obvious to anyone who can translate from the Boardmanic: "I don't like to lose arguments."

"You'll do wonders and eat rotten cucumbers."

I'm sorry if the last paragraph above sounds stuffy. It's paraphrased from Pplycock 17.

"You want to get a paper just to find out about a war breaking out?"

Tax Administrator News carried a picture of Marshall Korshak, who this year became Illinois Director of Revenue. It looks remarkably like my memory of Erle M Korshak. Do you suppose this could be his father?

"We can negotiate better laws than they can legislate."

Isaac Asimov in Grump:

Nor does my town do this only on those great holidays observed by the nation as a whole; we have two special holidays unknown to ordinary humanity. On one of these we celebrate a ride made by William Dawes (known as "Paul Revere's ride") and on the other we celebrate a battle fought on Breed's Hill (known as the "Battle of Bunker Hill.")

Aac-Bea Bea-Chi Chi-Ecz Eda-Gra Gra-Juv Kab-Mey Mia-Par Par-Run Run-Tok Tol-Zwi

---

Education USA reports a computer course at Cornell which "helps the student locate any errors he has made in feeding information to the computer. If the student, for instance, tells the computer to 'devide,' the machine tells him 'you goofed,' corrects the word to 'divide,' and goes on with the calculation."

Remember when "Wanted: a typewriter that can spell" was a gag in Madge?

AND OTHERS

Being possibly as disinterested in further Regressing with Campbell as you are, i've looked at the miscellaneous other prozines in the read-but-not-commented-on shelf.

The first of these i rather think i bought new, Fantastic Universe for April 57, because of an article mentioned on the cover, Pfui on Psi 34.3-A by De Camp. It was a pretty good attack.

Stan Mullen's Scavenger 44.4/35.3 (63) was one of those stories that's given away by its blurb. This one read: "The crowd fell back, mouths open in horror. The women wrong [wrung] delicate fingers, the males stared with beady eyes." As soon as you come across a mention of intelligent rats in the story, you know this is going to be one of those in which the "people" turn out to be aliens and vice versa.

Drawer in the Sand 41.9 was a one-page sketch frankly designed to put a story behind the cover.

The Students 41. was a ridiculously exaggerated description of permissive schooling.

Santesson didn't have much of a magazine.

Science Fiction Stories for May 59 was edited by Lowndes for Columbia. It apparently tried to put a leer in every story, but i only read a couple.

Utility Girl 45.2 was a weak thing, built around a contract clause that put a girl at the disposal of the crew, the surprise being "that the crew considers you as sexually desirable as an Earthman considers a female gorilla or chimp".

I don't give the android classification to Android Kill for Me 36.13 because Zeke's "muscles were thin steel and nylon interwoven". As we generally understand it, android means organic life, doesn't it?

In Amazing for Aug 61, The Highest Form of Life 35.3 was probably written after the cover was painted, and both were designed to cash in on the current interest in dolphins and the appearance of Szilard's book. It is as uninspired as you would expect such a story to be. It was a foregone conclusion that the dolphins would prove to be intelligent, and the revelation that they were from outer space was not particularly exciting. The story was put together choppily, and the sudden bursts of emotion with which the author tried to enliven it were sound and fury signifying nothing.

Sam's The Worlds of A. E. Van Vogt is a sound and creative discussion of Van, his strength and his weakness. I wonder if there is not one minor error in it: Sam says that eventually Gosseyn learned that he and the Unknown Chessplayer are one and the same. I thought the Unknown Chessplayer turned out to be the Games Machine.

Nothing else in the issue seemed worth reading.

That's the trouble with pulp sf. Bad as Analog is, there's nothing better.

You mean you read that crazy Alva Rogers stuff?