

SYNAPSE

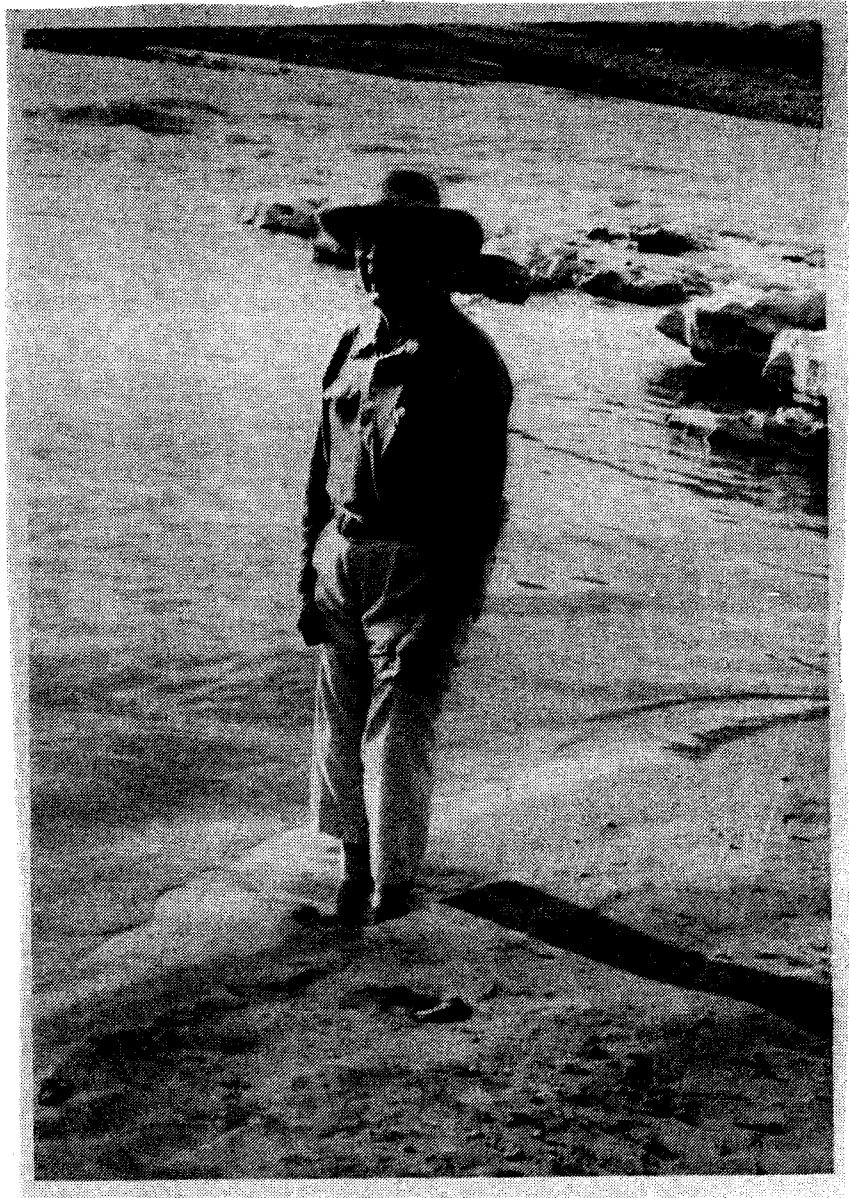
Published for FAPA 226 by Jack Speer, 2416 Cutler, AqNM 87106

DENDRITES

To counteract unflattering pictures that have been published in FAPA lately, i offer this photo of your reporter in peril on the Rio.

I thought i'd be saying here that this was a relatively relaxed publication week. Though i didn't start typing till Monday, i was virtually through by Thursday evening, except that i hadn't read the last few papers in the bundle. And i hadn't had to stay up any nights working on this.

Hubris. This afternoon, i spent so much time fussing around with the single illo inside that i'm getting the printing done only at the end of the day, surely not soon enough to have it reproduced and FedEx it.



Epimetheus Mailing 225

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Highlights

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EPIMETHEUS

Mailing 225

WRITERS OF THE PURPLE PAGE (Andruschak)

You wear a nightdress?

Maybe you understand that Warner was joking with "Unregardless". And maybe you know that Agnew's (Spiro, not Harold or Jack) namecalling was nattering nabobs of negativism.

You have curious taste in writing out numbers: "three ... 4th ... the other 4." " I expect middle-class Negroes also move out of L A because of the manmade and natural disasters. It's flight by members of any category who don't have to stay there.

" Why are you in N'APA? " So your German name comes from Ukraine? " "sausage fantasies" is a phrase new to me. " I trust tachyons are a more necessary hypothesis than Ghod. " I hear that France's commitment to nuclear energy has weakened.

Your concluding puzzle looks like an old one dressed up. Dressed-up mundane, that is.

BENS BEAT (Indick)

What is Effinger's porcine nickname?

"JIM CAUGHRAN: I regret Calvin Trillin did not include 'ontological.'" That sounds like an interesting comment, but i'm not going to dig through the last a Propos de Rien to discover what it means. " I didn't like what i read of Typewriter in the Sky, except the last words: "God? In a dirty bathrobe?" The rest, like Slaves of Sleep, seemed to be an excuse for action fiction.

" Speaking of Oz, the Rest of the Story this evening painted publication of the Wizard as a last despairing effort of a failed actor, and told how for Christmas Baum begged an advance from his publisher, who would give only a check for copies sold, which he handed to his wife without opening it. It was over three grand.

" The butter and salt&pepper one puts on squash taste good. " Surely you can tell the difference between a print and an original.

" Thanks for the spacing between sentences. But why not do it for everyone?

Your article entitled Hoaxes was too heavyhanded. The pre-ambule about August was wasted. The paragraphs should have been broken up into shorter ones, even for the New York Times. " I know of Poe's hoax, but what was Locke's?

When one is clearly referring to the Arabian, there's no reason to spell it "genie" instead of 'djinni'. " Ethnic humor about Swedes is still harmless. One may joke about the Scandahoovians and no one whose opinion counts imagines they are really inferior. " How do incorrect sizes result in fuzziness of color plates?

You too make odd choices in writing out numbers. "3 sixteen hour consecutive days ... plus a 4th evening and then an eight evening session". \$4 an hour isn't bad pay if the recipient got it from each of a dozen or more participants.

Looking at Rotsler's fillo, i realized he often draws people the way a child does at a certain age: head and body together. When i asked one where the neck was, she added it under the head-body.

How can you be so complacent about Irish chauvinism, when it's the sentiment that sends money abroad to kill people at random in an effort to force Northern Ireland into a union its people don't want?

DISINFORMATION (Hlavaty)

I interpret "it probably was steam-engine time" to mean that, like the invention of the steam engine, a publishing house such as Del Rey was bound to happen then. "the worst overall influence on the field since Hugo Gernsback" assumes your assessment of Gernsback, which is not the prevailing one. ' ' Is Robert X. Cringely a real name?

BLOODSHOT PYRAMID (Hlavaty)

Is the title an allusion to the eye in the pyramid?
How was Federal power projected at teenage drinking and seatbelt use? ' ' Does the phrase "a semantic spook" occur in Science & Sanity? ' ' It was artistic at the end of your article to hark back to a clause used near the beginning.

DISCORDIA REVISITED (Hlavaty)

Cecil Corwin was a penname of Kornbluth. ' ' "only writers are interested in enough different and apparently separate fields to gather the necessary data." There are others, including lawyers, whose occupations may require as wide-ranging knowledge. But one's occupation doesn't define him anyway. ' ' Is LSD injected? ' ' You have a weakness for generalizations some of whose applications appeal to you though others are invalid. "the Interests of Society never seem to do you any good". The interests of society include clean air, deterrence of crime, sewage disposal, enforcement of contracts, and many other things that make up our common ground. ' ' It's hard to know whether everything in this issue is a reprint, or whether, for example, "This issue of DR is the first illustrated one" is contemporary. I guess that the sic in "men [sic]" was added in our politically correct day. ' ' I'm debating whether the Scotchman stereotype is harmless. I believe English look down on Scots, as such, as being uncivilized, so maybe it isn't harmless. My adverse reaction to clip art like your cartoon is mostly impatience at the hucksteristic purpose for which it's usually employed. Incidentally, i've noticed that Scotch tape is now called something else--Highlander? ' ' Your proportional-spacing program seems to adjust the space between letters as well as between words, here stretching, there squeezing. ' ' You speak of your father's demonstrating his knowledge. You shouldn't have been reluctant to say intelligence. ' ' "The old Greek stories tell us that a man in a position like that is bound to fall". Only if he's hubristic. The Chinese and Warner variant of that is only if he talks about his good fortune. ' ' I didn't know the Christian Brothers did anything except bottle ethanol. ' ' I believe the phrase was "redeeming social value". It was an unfortunate remark, not part of the court's test for pornography.

' ' And you don't think the state should try to regulate property rights when they split up, like who gets how much of an asset to which both have contributed some value? ' ' "Poverty won" is a wisecrack, but the last i heard, the War on Poverty had cut the proportion of poor in half. ' ' How is the department of public assistance going to find the putative father and make a case against him for support without asking nosy questions? ' ' The louse was on the lady's bonnet, not in her hair. ' ' So that's what George Carlin was famous for, and that's why PBS expected us to tune in to him in spite of its offputting previews. ' ' Our innate tastes for food are a pretty good guide, except that the sweet tooth was developed in days when sugar was precious. That aside, your reversal of values is not valid. ' ' Narcissism isn't the same thing as selfishness. ' ' The correlation is low between "producing things that are more useful, or giving people more pleasure" and the rewards of capitalism. ' ' Ecology (popular meaning) is not disposed of by the formulation "placing the interests of the environment above our own."

I didn't know Charles Fort said such things. ' ' I liked Ray Nelson's "However you happen to be, act like you got that way on purpose." ' ' Mencken's is another of those generalizations you have a weakness for: "The kind of man who wants the government to adopt and enforce his ideas is always the kind of man whose ideas are idiotic." While i for personal reasons don't want universal health insurance, i respect people who urge it. Other questionable quotes are that in a landlord's business the upkeep is taken care of by the customer, and "A textbook is a device for preventing the student from learning too much."

PERMANENCE OF EMPEMERA (Raeburn)

Did you spell it that way in the previous issue?

Most of us your age or older probably know the story of the Ancient Mariner. You're weak on some of the details. Killing the albatross was not immediately followed by the great calm. The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, before the consequences of that killing and their approval were visited upon the crew. Incidentally, that passage ending "We were the first that ever burst into that silent sea" was applied to Luna in the Eternal Mask (Az Feb 33). The albatross was hung on him as punishment. "Ah, well-a-day, bad looks had I Alike from old and young; Instead of the cross, the albatross Around my neck was hung." Coleridge must not have been observant, to think it strange the sun should look no bigger than the moon. ' ' Kubla Khan wasn't a ballad, even Lyrical. The story you vaguely remember is the Person from Porlock, ASF Aug 47. ' ' A reader complimented the author of a column for grandparents on the indirect teaching in telling a child "That fat boy over there is going to have trouble when he gets older", but chid her for using



"fat", whereupon the author apologized and said of course she should have used "overweight". ' ' Was the "Connect me to a brewery" verse serious?

I'm not familiar with Dylan Thomas's Christmas, but Engel's is okay. "my Christmas soon-to-be-forgotten child's life" seems patently false. ' ' "superintendant", "inutterably", "cockrow", and other errors somewhat spoil the effect. "nerve and gear-wracking" repeats the common misconception of the meaning of racking. What is slut's wool? ' ' It would have been well to mark the end before going on to your discussion of The Drought.

The newspaper feature Earthwatch and other sources told us the California drouth had ended, with a bang. And there were follow-ups to the oil slick on the Persian Gulf.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE RABBIT (Bratman)

Well, no, i don't think Grennell sawed Courtney's boat. ' ' The ozone hole has little connection with global warming, though often confused with it. When you speak of the effects in Patagonia, do you mean Schaffer's Punta Arenas? ' ' "an owe-pages FAPA deadline" is a new term for lacktivity. ' ' How could 33 percent be a plurality in a three-way race?

WEIRD TALES (Everts)

You probably told us before how the name Feder got attributed to Robert Arthur, but i've forgotten. It would have been useful for you to specify what else in the Contemporary Authors biography was not true, since there are many data not repeated in your presumably correct biography.

HORIZONS

It's only a minority of teenagers that prefer welfare to working. And there's no dole for young people, unless one is or has a baby-bearing female. The dole called Supplemental Security Income is available for handicapped people, but the last i heard it was under \$200 a month, hardly enough to rent a room and live on. The young do whine about the low minimum wage, as if they expect to be handed better jobs than they are qualified for. ' ' Does your ancient Royal have an underline? Look for it over the 6. Even if you don't underline it, that key, used on FAPAZinames, could ease our keeping in mind which you're currently commenting on. ' ' I'd guess that "Si non e vero, e ben trovato", (with appropriate accent marks) means if it's not true, it's well found. ' ' We don't advocate retroactive abortion. The idea that we do is a fallacy implicit in much of the Right to Life propaganda. An embryo that was aborted can no more carry a sign saying "I'm glad I wasn't aborted" than an unconceived illegitimate can say "I wish my parents had fornicated". What we try to derive from experience are guidelines for the future, not personal what-ifs about the past. When senator Domenici said "As the last of ten children, how can I be in favor of birth control?" he was reasoning as if it were to be made retroactive. ' ' What is smogging? ' ' Maybe Magyars are naturally slim.

"In the two smaller ones were nothing." Putting that in normal word order, 'Nothing were in the two smaller ones.' Yes, yes, this is your young self's style; but i will catch you in the same error again. '' I believe the only thing i remember from St Nicholas magazine is a series of pictures on how to draw a rabbit using numbers. "Within the 3, and just below The crooked 1, two noughts must go." And maybe that was the Youths Companion. '' Paul wasn't responsible for the red and yellow backgrounds on his covers. I liked the cover for the Blue Infinity. '' The British leaflet "If the Invader Comes" argues for a 1940 date.

LICKS (Hansen)

Don't think i didn't notice things like "a dozen pounds later", just because i didn't mention them. '' Funny, i don't think of you as Welsh. '' One may speculate about Bible-bred misogyny, but is there any scholarly support for the idea that religion is "the major wellspring of misogyny in Western culture"? And is "love and tolerance" "the central message ... of Jesus' teachings"?

The question of who started World War III could have been endlessly debated, involving as it would the meaning of causation. It wouldn't have been a simple question like who crossed a frontier first in World War 1 or 2, or who fired the first shot in 1861. Apparently, however, what you were looking to pin on the US administration was moral blame, a more difficult concept even than causation. '' What were the "SF movies in which post-holocaust Earth didn't seem so bad"?

CLUNQUE (Rike)

I don't think i know Rat Fandom. '' I guess you say "FAPA Egoboo Poll" when you meant Egopoo. '' e-mail may be cheaper than longdistance phone, but other than speed, what is its advantage over letter mail? '' You say enough about Jeanne for us to half guess who she is, but Jaime jumps out of nothingness at the end of your issue.

WISCONSIN YANKEE IN DIXIE (Feller)

Does in-flight catering mean filling those disposable trays with food?

You repeatedly speak of congoers. Shouldn't that be zairers?

Furry animals living harmonically in the woods. Is Alvin one of them? '' I think i've heard sf pros use "maguffin" in a way slightly different from "a device that drives the action". '' Can directing a movie be a cameo?

The Crisis on Infinite Earths is an interesting enough title that i'd read or watch it if it came along. '' Like female opera singers, Welk music often listens better if you don't look.

SPIROCHETE (Boggs)

L Q C Lamar was probably a president of Texas. Rufus King was in the Federal Convention. Griffin Bell was a member of a recent cabinet, i believe. Braxton Bragg commanded the Army of Tennessee from the Kentucky campaign through Chattanooga. Judah P. Benjamin was a member of the Confederate cabinet; there's an imaginative novel about him titled Judah. Marriner Eccles was head of boards under Democratic administrations. Philo Farnsworth invented electronic television as much as anyone.

"all that successful." Tch tsk.

Autogiro beanies are a nice concept, but i believe by the time B-69-0 came along, autogyros were buried behind World War 2.

KING BISCUIT TIME (Lichtman)

Was Cora's Blen Hodson dead when poker games were held at her house because she had two small children? '' "You never miss the water until the well runs dry" is a proverb, not an axiom. '' I don't know Chesty Puller.

MAHOGANY WOOD (Hofmann)

I've seen the slashmark wildly used, but never as in "(first time/two weeks)" and "(again/two or three weeks)." '' "I hope to finish my mc run of FAPA Mailing #224 in Mahogany Wood #10." Wanta bet?

Tax services send sets of looseleaf books to subscribers, and every so often send a bunch of pages to be inserted thruout the volumes, replacing superseded pages. This is such tedious handwork that independent contractors offer to do the work for law offices. If the update is no frequenter than annual, it's more economical to print a fresh uptodate copy of each volume.

It occurs to me th't there is another sound, a cluck, which means "not bad", and that may be what you meant instead of tch/tsk. (There! I slashed and i'm sorry.)

"It's almost 90% sure that the zine will be distributed via FAPA." Why not make a wild guess and say it's 90% sure? (This is a reflection on pseudo-precision.) '' No, i didn't know that Budrys has been receiving payoffs from Bridge and Scientology.

THOMANIA (Thomann)

Our TV schedule uses narrow letters, approaching illegibility, to cram more words into little boxes. Yours are narrower than that. I guess that it's better to compress letters horizontally than to compress them vertically. But i'll bet FAPA wouldn't mind paying the extra postage if everyone printed his fmz in pica.

Thanks for the local background. '' Because of French domination of our culture, we English call him Charlemagne rather than Karl the Great. It is remarkable how Frankistan split into what became the three main states of western Europe.

"a native foreign languagespeaker". This resembles our Scandinavian members' conjoining of words, which puzzled me. Your later "englishlanguage fans" made more sense. ' ' It isn't only persons born to foreign languages who experience difficulty understanding British speakers. We colonials have trouble too.

The Helicon Read Me cover carries many languages, but what, no Esperanto?

"at 2pm, a time when many fans were resting after the long nights." Sissies. ' ' How does one concrete a book? ' ' At a ConFrancisco panel on translation difficulties, i remarked that puns in Asterix were translated remarkably well, and everyone seemed to know what Asterix was.

DETOURS (Chauvenet)

I don't believe Fred Lerner invented "Beauty is its own excuse for being."

I'd like to play tennis with you, but fear i'm not in your league. ' ' I supposed that when a ball is obviously going out, one has the right (at least in social play, without ballboys) to hit it into the net or otherwise stop it without losing the point. ' ' I don't think i could play lefthanded. ' ' Are you a Yalie?

The Jeopardy rule that one must answer with "What is ... ?" is stupid. ' ' On page 7 you inserted one missing quotation mark by hand, but omitted to close another quote. And closed "Thebes of the Hundred gates) with a parenthesis. ' ' T

his sort of thing happens all the time when one hits Enter or Return accidentally. ' ' No, postmodern is later than futuristic. It harks back to traditional forms. ' ' To me, SLAM suggests Grand Slam Canyon at Circus Circus. ' ' Even i know the tune of Ode to Joy, though i can't whistle it. Anyway, whistling doesn't sound quite the same as an orchestra and chorus; that's what those people with musical instruments are for. ' ' Chimneyville is Jackson, as Grant left it. ' ' Meaningless twaddle? Don't underestimate the power of orthodoxy. When Andy Rooney of 60 Minutes said something sensible but politically incorrect, he was put in the penalty box for weeks. ' ' There are problems on the borderline, but the concept of the difference between sf and pure fantasy is clear. When Wollheim invented the phrase "pure fantasy", he was concerned with plausibility rather than possibility. The concession i make to that idea is th't impossibility is to be judged by the common reader's knowledge. In FAPA's name, "fantasy" is used in the sense W intended, as embracing s-f, weird, and pure fantasy. What i call stef.

Mintz's haiku is good.

Isn't "fully adequate" a pleonasm? ' ' Thompson was not the first scientist to use well-earned prestige to hold down a correct new idea. ' ' Was anything contributed to breaking the Maya code by the Spaniard monk's quizzing a native with "Que es A? Que es B? ..."?

FOR FAPA (Lindsay)

The USA isn't all unstable. Though Albuquerque sits in the Rio Grande trough, it rarely has a perceptible tremor. And Comanche is as stable as the rock of ages. ' ' Would the US have been better off if all houses had been wired for 240 volts at the outset? ' ' This sounds selfcontradictory: "I ... assumed an oversupply with monopoly pricing." While the diamond cartel may, with difficulty, impose administered prices in the face of oversupply, the oil cartel failed to do so. ' ' How long might "they" have to keep trying before finding a candidate that a majority of a diverse electorate would find preferable to "None of the above"? ' ' I didn't know popular computers were supposed to have "sound recording and playback". ' ' Printing up a hard copy from disk doesn't yield something as easy to read as a book. Or so i judge from the Museum of Time Machines, a first novel i bought from a fellow who sent it by bulky printout, which i have not brought myself to tackle. ' ' There's no radio schedule, but i've gradually learned when a few things besides Paul Harvey come on. Recently i found that the president's regular Saturday addresses, of which i'd heard for some time, are at 0900 our time. ' ' Most US citizens probably had trouble understanding the backgrounds of Alternate Presidents, such as i had with the historical events in Lest Darkness Fall. ' ' Is "leisure and pleasure" cynical? ' ' I don't know whether my Amstrad PCW8256 has a serial port, but its manual says SETSIO "Sets the parameters of thge serial interface, provided for example by the Amstrad CPS8256 serial/parallel interface." ' ' "and just wear the typos" is an idiom not clarified in my copy of the Australian Language. Is it similar to Macbeth's "We'd jump the life to come"? ' ' "A loud spruiker for Jesus" looks like Dutch or a typo, but Merriam-Webster knows it. "the competition to the hoarse cries to Christ were drowned by ..." doesn't say what you mean. ' ' "more fool those who pay" is apparently derived from "the more fool I", but i wonder how grammarians would analyze the syntax. I suspect something similar to "the more the merrier" in which "the" represents "thy", the instrumental case of "thaet". ' ' "decriminalising most drugs would cut down the crime rate." Not nearly as much as legalizing crime would. "surely some social engineering could be used to also cut down the use of all drugs." Surely social engineering could cut down crime. Got any ideas that haven't been tried?

Five times in this issue you say "Mind you". What does it mean? ' ' Your supervisor actually drills holes in your desk? Is he mad?

PULL BACK TO REVEAL NO TROUSERS (Green)

"To opt for smaller events is to claim that in some way 'our' slant on sf is more valid than the views of those people". Why not? For us it is. ' ' There are convention fanzines. I guess what you mean--aside from "some kind of regular (daily?) fanroom publication"--is a fanzine produced at the convention but otherwise like a general-interest fmz. Okay, but who's going to have time there to read it? I still haven't read the program or souvenir

books from the last two--nay, more than that--worldcons. ''
 "forced Ann and I ..." '' Is "road trips to visit friends" your
 way of disposing of the first science-fiction convention, which
 was NYB-ISA's visit to the Philadelphia branch? '' I don't think
 failing to mail to new fen is "disenfranchising newcomers", or even
 disfranchising them. Mailing to new fen may well be good policy.
 Good policy is a different thing from individual rights. ''
 What's illegal about borrowing tapes from friends to play, if you
 don't copy them? '' Genetic engineering would violate our innate
 sexuality? Innate means inborn. Genetic engineering wouldn't
 change your sexuality or mine. It doesn't operate retroactively.
 '' The US has a law against honoring persons in certain ways until
 they're dead. This sometimes avoids embarrassments such as Merthyr
 Tydfil's. '' "Theatre of Blood is among my favourite horror
 movies; with Vincent Price's performance amongst his most
 memorable." Why the suffix on the second "among"?

LOFGEORNOST (Lerner)

It may be a human weakness that i would rather read
 a travelog about a place i know than a place, such as Hungary,
 that i don't know. '' Seattle's love affair with coffee comes
 partly from its Scandinavian element. '' It was Euklid who
 defined a straight line as the shortest distance between two
 points. '' Your hyphenation program let you down on seag-
 ulls. '' What kind of funding for the Makah-language program
 was cut back: Federal or tribal? '' Clear cutting reduces the
 biodiversity, meanwhile and of the forest that follows it. ''
 I liked these observations: "The tall spruce, hemlock, and cedar
 were impressive in their skyward reach, and even more so when they
 had fallen down"; and "the place where a two-foot-wide freshwater
 creek flowed unobtrusively into the Pacific." '' Lake Quinault
 is where somebody claimed in the Ziff-Davis Amazing to have seen
 a UFO. '' Hoquiam and Aberdeen are gritty, but aren't those
 flowerbeds beautiful?

It must be an advantage to have a three-part name to write
 novels in verse. There are Samuel Taylor Coleridge (only he could
 never finish anything long), Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Sir Walter
 Scott, and Alfred Lord Tennyson. '' I came to the Wind in the
 Willows too late to love it. '' Mission San Jose y San Miguel
 has an odd combination of saints.

I wouldn't call John Campbell a legendary editor. He's
 within the memory of living fan. '' I don't believe this:
 "It is this divergence in the way words are used, rather than any
 particular exoticism of subject matter ... that separates modern
 science fiction from the literary mainstream." '' And on what
 ground would you classify as time-travel stories those that bring
 history to life? Prehistory is a different matter: Archeology
 and anthropology are uncertain enough sciences that some things
 depicted in fiction may prove to be impossible. '' Has someone
 previously remarked on the Kipling title .007?

What's an example of the "peripheral books" you mention?

various (Taeusch)

Assuming that the Rocky & Bullwinkle synopses are more competently written than the rest of this, I prize them. These demonstrative snippets show, that series was remarkable for recondite allusions and puns. Dan Summers sometimes shows them as short subjects around a feature movie he projects for local clubs. But how could the plots outlined consume from four to forty episodes each?

A PROPOS DE RIEN (Caughran)

Your time-acceleration was good. I don't think the speedup is a function of age only. In a new place, a day is long.

"moot" doesn't mean what you think. It's not appropriate to say much work would become moot. I don't know whether Canada or provinces have the initiative and referendum. Your suggestion that "one house of the legislature consist of all citizens, conducting business electronically" goes beyond those devices. If you were to look at the grist of a legislature's mill, such questions as these ought to occur to you: How much support does it take to put a question before the electorate? Does the democracy want to vote on the proposals to license beauticians, polygraphers, financial planners, title-insurance companies, nursing homes, etc? (Have you ever sat through a city-council meeting waiting for it to get to the topic you're interested in?) Does Demos wish to decide what powers cities between 5,000 and 25,000 population shall have? (Such bills come up all the time, because cities & towns have only the powers specifically granted them.) You brush over how many citizens would participate. The statement "committee work would remain committee work, for those particularly interested in an area of legislation" raises the question: If we left it to the interested persons to fashion teachers' retirement plans, say, would they steal the key to the treasury? There is the whole problem of fitting appropriations to taxes. In what form would a question be presented to the voters? If the proposal is to adopt the Uniform Commercial Code, should the articles on sales, commercial paper, bank deposits & collections, letters of credit, bulk transfers, warehouse receipts etc, investment securities, and secured transactions be voted on separately or presented as a single package? How about tying the Consumer Credit Code to it? If the proposal is the Model Probate Code, should there be separate votes on Protection of Persons Under Disability, and on alternative possible fractions for the distribution of an intestate estate between the spouse and the children? What happens to the process by which multiple choices are made to produce a single piece of legislation? Here is a proposal to ban fishing on the Grand Banks. What kind of fishing? For how many years? Shall there be an exception for Indians? (What is an Indian?) What kind of penalties should there be for violations? What enforcement machinery? From the foregoing, you should not be surprised to learn that legislators are deluged with information and views about questions that may come before them, more than anyone will read. It is not feasible

to lay all that on the voters. Your ideas for digesting the arguments and letting anyone restate his if he feels it has been misstated are not practical. '' Willingness aside, are citizens at large even competent to decide on reorganization of the executive branch of a government, or how much trucks should be taxed per ton-mile & how much of the cost of maintaining highways should be paid by an annual license fee based on the number of axles?

When Harry Warner makes it as plain as you do what FAPazines he's commenting on, the world will have grown honest. But where the heading takes more space than the comment, as with Dont Make Me Laugh, it seems excessive. '' "If one faxes 68 identical copies to the OE, does it count as activity? (Does the OE also get credit as publisher?)" Yes and no. '' "How 'bout those 'boys?" a Texas phone salesman asked me the other day. Silence. "Cowboys. Dallas Cowboys." "Oh," i said, "i don't follow sports." That's not as satisfying as the incident when Doc Lowndes was editing some sports-stories magazines in addition to stef. Someone asked what he thought of the Series. "What series?" answered the editor of Baseball Stories. '' Is there supposed to be an accent mark on Kije? '' Your typeface, though sans serif, doesn't look featureless, maybe because it's printed so boldly. '' Takes Word literally, or Micro? (No one else need try to understand this.) '' One impediment of which English is free is gender (or was until the feminists came along, rewriting everything from the Bible to statute-books). '' Why would a tough plow dough? Now, you might plow dough back into an enterprise. '' "In fact, it doesn't make sense in a very strong way." Does "in a very strong way" modify "make sense" or "doesn't make sense"? "Euclid was more significant than any of the Caesars" uses an adjective whose signification is as muddy as 'important'. There is probably no operational meaning to such propositions, except to run alternate histories with a time machine and then give the timetraveler's subjective opinion on which future is more alien. '' On the other hand, perhaps we can say that Newton, Galileo, Gauss, and Gutenberg mattered less than military leaders, because if it was steam-engine time their discoveries would have been made by someone else, whereas military decisions are often crucial at great turning points. But any change can make a huge difference. Consider Shelvick's claims to immortality in Folly this mailing. '' Non Englishspeakers don't understand our perfect tense, either. (In some languages, the perfect tense has displaced the preterit.) They also don't grasp how we use the present once we've gotten into the future: 'He'll be lucky if he's alive then.' '' I didn't take seriously the suggestion of nuclear winter counteracting global warming because it would be unlikely to have exactly the magnitude required. '' Electronic money is so different from barter. '' What did Henry Higgins say a propos of that? (No one else need try to understand that, either. Maybe i should have written a loc.)

TALES OF THE CAMBRIAN ERA (Eisen)

Until you went there, all Johnstown meant to me was "To the hills, men; the dam's busted!" Is Scalp avenue for real? "The Cambrian is a period, i believe.

I would also rather read about a convention i attended than about one i didn't. "Oh, no! We're becoming our parents. "State-of-the-art virtual reality is virtualer than what you experienced. "Was Ken volunteering to speak in science programming? I wouldn't have thought the lists were still open. Who on the concommittee besides Peggy Rae Pavlat, when they were making up the lists, knew enough fen to know who should be considered? "David Charles, a cohort of mine". You were horts together? "I ope "i.e. cucumber sandwiches" should have been 'e.g.' "When NESFA was putting together their ..." Which is it, singular or plural? "Clearly garlic and chocolate are incompatible elixirs." How about the chocolate-coated cabbage? "... great chocolate. I drank too much that night ..." I've heard of its keeping one awake, but making you discuss your sexual history? "Ashman was essentially the auteur of the movies". Is that different from essentially the author?

Making Australia a republic would nullify the powers, such as they are, of the governor-general as delegate of the queen. "Poughkeepsie is another funny name, exploited by Jack Benny. "You speak of hyphenation algorithms. Does that mean directions like hyphenate after a vowel before a single consonant, or never separate t and h (as in "shorth-and" in the current Folly)? The only satisfactory hyphenation program would refer to a dictionary in every case. " (I had the devil finding the Bens Beat you commented on, because the Fantasy Amateur didn't list it.) Maybe Ben didn't discuss June Is Bustin Out All Over and Youll Never Walk Alone in connexion with Carnival because they came from Carousel.

"Do you expect me to believe that there was no visible poverty in the U.S. before World War II?" When i see a passage like that, my reaction is 'Wha'd i say? Wha'd i say?' I scanned the May Epimetheus and PC or Not PC for the words "visible" and "poverty" and drew a blank. Finally i found the referent in Dendrites, in a paragraph beginning "Nova Scotia is much like the USA before World War 2" and saying, eleven sentences later, "No poverty was visible". Aren't you the wight who quoted dixonaries like Webster III in favor of "Re:"? Webster III recognizes the verb "impact" as meaning "to have an impact upon". More important, i thought about it, and that was the best word in the context. "As for the cultural elite, i don't by using that phrase buy into the theory that the cultural elite "runs this society"; but there is a cultural elite, and its hierarchs, besides producing or assisting some good things, pat each other on the back and pass favors around, and sometimes are short on common sense. Let's have less of name-calling like "unmitigated bleat" and "retrogressive pseudo-populism out there that's every bit as brain-dead and dangerous as PC", and talk about the issues. "But for the chance to respond promptly in FAPA, it would be dishonest to characterize according to your own categories what someone else has said, as in "I'm sorry if anti-child-abuse

sentiments on billboards offend you." An initial question is whether spanking is child abuse. Most people say no. You align yourself with the elite who say it is. They have saws embodying their preconceptions, such as "the moment you raise a hand to a child, you have lost the argument." (Hell, you're not supposed to be carrying on an argument with him. Chances are you know what's best for him; make him do it (which, often, is don't do it). This is consistent with giving him a great deal of free time and opportunities to make choices of his own, explaining, and listening when what he says is worth attention.) To these people it's gospel that "Hurting a child teaches him nothing except that whoever has power can hurt the one he has power over, and that the way to handle problems is through violence." How do they know? How do they know it doesn't teach him he'd better obey his parents? It's a parent doing the spanking, not some abstraction like "violence" or "whoever has power". In Oklahoma in the 1930s, Indian policy was neither extermination nor quarantine.

The Schenectady headlines are great, in a mediocre way.

CREATURE OF HABIT (Brandt)

How was the Haight-Ashbury epic reactionary? Do they charge addicts on the basis of ability to pay, so that one with no income would get conditioning free?

UNTELEPORTED FAN (Moudry)

What signify question marks such as the one after Duane Rimel's name? Post mortem ... Covert art uncredited." Naturally. My elimination of punctuation marks from titles is justified by instances of as careful a person as you overlooking them, e g "The Spider master of men!", no colon in its second occurrence. It may accord with your rules, but "[Moties ; 2]" on The gripping hand looks inadvertent.

I don't see art credits. Are some of your illos stolen from old pulps?

SYNAPSE

The law library has newspapers like the New York Times on microfiche, but not the hole in the card, as i had pictured it. I think maybe the Right to Life ads say "What a beautiful choice".

FANALYSIS (Schaffer)

I always find typos after i've mailed out my FAPazine. I have habitually noted them in the next issue, but maybe that's futile, so i skipped it this time. I do, however, want to agonize publicly over "he he" and "that that". Apparently a couple of yours showed up in "picked Charlies' ego and dialogue balloon." In the last pages you became extra careless, with "2000; a Space Odyssey", "Das Boat", "Halloween" twice (maybe you think it's spelled that way), and indifference about using quotemarks on

the Incompleat Burbee. [Trivia question that just occurred to me: Explain the spelling "Incompleat" in this and other titles.]

Which did you collector friend acquire, the heifer or the milk cap?

However, that ever-so-correct TimeTrax recently made the Yakuza the good guys, discriminated against.

Who is Roy Hobbs and is he fictitious?

I read the fine print about Finlay, but it wasn't worth the effort.

On your comments to me: Tell us something we haven't already thought about.

How would you like it if after you placed your case in the hands of the jury, one of them went out and conducted a private investigation of the matter, returning to the jury room with what he considered to be relevant evidence? (And if he wasn't as good a guy as Henry Fonda always is?)

SWEET JAME (Eklund)

Your colophon isn't as highminded as Redd Boggs's. If you want to know, the duck belongs to the hunter, but he doesn't have the right to go on the farmer's land to retrieve it.

You didn't close the outside parenthesis following "Leo rose to his feet." There were disk jockeys in Seattle before Bob Salter, when you were three years old.

I'd like to see Will Rogers's Connecticut Yankee. It was playing on a television set in a store once, and seemed to have had some sound added to a mostly silent picture. Stage shows impersonating him have been broadcast, some of their current popularity probably stemming from his unfortunate adoption of the idea that politicians are all crooks.

There was a man his name was Lang He had a neon sign

I didn't watch Brooklyn Bridge while it was first-running, but last year I saw a rerun episode supposedly set in 1957 when the Russians launched Sputnik. Before such pictures as this become fixed in the minds of a callow generation, those of us who remember 1957 should speak up.

We were not happy about the Russians beating us into orbit, but we didn't imagine that Sputnik was going to drop bombs on us or drench us with death rays. If anything occurred like the Brooklyn Bridge family cowering in a cellar, it was the isolated aberration that may happen in any large country.

A more typical was ours in creating Christmas-tree sputnik decorations from foam balls and toothpicks. The Christmas card a school chum sent to my parents depicted Sputnik passing over and going beep-beep-beep.

And when he turned it on at night We called it old Lang's sign.

HIGHLIGHTS

BeB on verdure: "And it's not just a 'green' green, but a special deep saturated variety that only exists in spring, before the summer heat has cooked the life out of it." And in eschatology: "The Heat-Death of the Fanzine".

Andruschak: "When I returned from Norman on 23 July, there was three weeks worth of mail awaiting me. # Now, thanks to hard work and edicated effort, the box is down to 4 weeks of mail."

Indick: "FAPA almost always has a few nuggets, and the rest is at worst amiable."

Bratman: "a large number of the unintelligible things done by government, from peculiar bus routes on up, are done because a majority of the active public wants them that way."

Warner: "When he finds two different issues with the same whole numbers in the colophon, he should realize that these are stereophanac issues."

Widner: "It wasnt half bad--which means it also was half bad," Katz in Yhos: "atomization of the hobby into semi-separate Special Fandoms linked by some sort of instinctive desire to congregate in a big hotel over a Labor Day weekend."

Lerner: "Even more surprising than the rapid change in elevation from one avenue to the next was the number of bicyclists apparently oblivious to the topography of their surroundings." "Seattle seemed an enormously liveable city, for those not addicted to sunshine." "I have come to realise that my favourite setting for a science fiction story is an earthlike planet, or one terraformed into a near-arcadia. I think that my problem is that I am a utopian at heart. It is the perfection of humankind that I want to see when I read science fiction: the perfection of humankind, not its transformation into something more than human."

Caughran: "Most experts will admit uncertainty with the greenhouse effect, but point out that the risk is so large, the cost of prevention so comparatively small, that the conservative thing to do is to radically change society."

Eisen: "I had forgotten how annoying fans can be in large groups when they all think they're funny." "The true problem, admittedly, is not too many books; it is too few bookshelves." "She complained about people pointing out details she'd gotten wrong (as though details aren't important, ...)" "Combining the book collections: the fannish equivalent of opening a joint bank account."

Brandt: "they are trolling for new members".

Katz: "'Except X,' I added. Since we were voyaging on the waters of incomprehensible craziness, I thought it sporting to give her all the rules." "Sometimes we read classic fan articles aloud to each other and laugh in many of the right places." Glicksohn in Folly: "shameful example of fannish recidivism". Silverberg in same: "The Startling letter column was simply a continuation of fanzine fandom by other means."

Schaffer: "The Howling; It's a fang-in-cheeker."

Eklund: "(Which I never could finish, by the way, not that I'm complaining.)"

Metcalf: "pro bono fanico".