



SYNAPSE



Published for FAPA 144 by Jack Speer, 2416 Cutler NE, Albuquerque NM 87106

DENDRITES

I just noticed this is the gross mailing. A duodecimalist like i'm should have done something special for it.

Well, it did look as if i'd avoid the lastminute rush, which would be special for me. I finished reading the mailing a week earlier than usual. Then circumstances supervened.

We've been sending our children over to Oklahoma this summer seriatim to help their grandparents. Then the awkwardly scheduled arrival of one of my nephews obliged us to go over the weekend before deadline to pick up my son, and the stencils have had to be cut evenings of the last week instead.

Thursday i was ready to bear down and finish. Then Rusty Hevelin phoned between buses. I brought him out to join us in my birthday dinner. He parked some boxes of books here for huckstering at the New Mexicon, to make space in his footlockers for old prozines from his treasure trove at his mother's house in Riverside. He will return with them for the New Mexicon, then go on to Torcon, and after that make a circuit thru Canada back to the west coast.

So here i am winding things up just before dawn Friday.

Mailing 143 Epimetheus

1

Se Dice

11

Resolving Power

12

Mailing 145

EPIMETHEUS

FANTASY AMATEUR

Snap shouldn't have been attributed to waitlister Kunkel if it's in the mailing as being in part the work of member Katz.

In the egoboo poll, fiction and poetry might be combined or reduced in the possible number of points. "What's a cheap shot?" I agree with your reasons for giving points for voting in the egoboo poll.

Somebody slipped in awarding me activity credit.

Doesn't officialdom understand completism? They include a poll postcard in this mailing which they don't even reproduce in the FA, yet they expect us to return it. I instead sent a different postcard to Evans at the last minute, and i fear it was a pearl of ambiguity: "No on Senda."

HORIZONS

One-shots are generally composed on stencil, and i doubt anyone restencils them later.

"I don't see why children shouldn't eventually be born with the ability to read." Why should they? Your examples are insufficient to overturn the principle that acquired characteristics are not inherited.

Haldeman-Julius warned us a half-century ago how newspapers deceive their readers by, among other things, manufacturing news items. Now i find that we have one of those deceivers in our midst.

I believe the three quotations you refer to are appended to the definition of ex post facto, not ex post facto law (which is the phrase you referred to in the constitution). Webster II, which has more regard for learning, thus defines the latter: "In a general sense, any law, civil or criminal, enacted with a retrospective effect; in the constitutional law of the United States, only such a law relating to crime, ..." This is not a doctrine invented by lawyers and judges. My old GWU prof, Reed West, whose field was political science, wrote in his book: "An ex post facto law, within the meaning of the Constitutional prohibition, is a retroactive criminal law". And, just to seize another source in my library, LNV's Freedom Agenda pamphlet written by Alfred Kelly, chairman of history at Wayne, said: "An ex post facto law was one defining and punishing an offense as criminal which had been passed after the defendant had committed the offense in question." Nor does this interpretation defy the intention of the people who wrote and the people who adopted the constitution. The most authoritative gloss on the Federal Convention's language is in The Federalist, which was published while ratification was pending in New York and other important states. I have found two mentions of ex post facto laws in The Federalist. No. XLIII (Madison) mentions them together with others, but the only passage in which Publius indicated what the phrase meant is in LXXXIV, where Hamilton spoke only of "The creation of crimes after the commission of the fact, or, in other words, the subjecting of men to punishment for things which, when they were done, were breaches of no law, ..." Notwithstanding, there must have been some doubts, of the meaning, current at that time in states such as New York, which had no ex-post-facto guaranty in its constitution; because the convention of that state, in ratifying the federal constitution, remarked that it was under the impression, among other things, that "the Prohibition contained in the said Constitution against ex post facto Laws, extends only to Laws concerning Crimes." You are so keyed up about this, you must still be resenting that tax

you had to pay. Consider: If your interpretation were correct and Congress couldn't pass a law operating on facts that have already occurred, then Congress couldn't amend the internal revenue code to affect the tax people will pay next April. Such a limitation would gravely hamper fiscal adjustments to meet changing situations. "It's a question of what people are most likely to wish: that there are exciting things under the moon's surface, or that we know it all. I think the first is wishful thinking. The second is mistaken, but if believed is not believed because one wishes it so." Lincoln referred to "the gay of all sexes and tongues and colors". "Where was They Drive by Night said to be a frank semi-remake of Bordertown? The basic idea of Bordertown, a Mexican-American struggling upward, only remotely resembles the efforts of truckers to own their equipment. Hey, I just found it in my birthday book, The American Movies.

If it becomes possible "to treat criminal impulses with pills or hypnosis" should we do it? After Clockwork Orange I put this question to the local club, and got I think a predominantly affirmative answer. I put it to a group of liberals including Eugene McCarthy (I had to capsulize Clockwork Orange for them) and got a negative response.

Your allusion to "the pre-selected winner" implies that all major party conventions are fixed by some continuing group. Do you think that was true of the McGovern nomination?

Twenty years before Martin published his version, Art Widner told the "There's no ship" story.

Well, it's pretty obvious that either Matthew's or Luke's nativity story is false. They are inconsistent in every particular except that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which was the prophecy they set out to reconcile with the fact that he hailed from Nazareth. "There is evidence at the end of Mark's gospel that church fathers were willing to falsify, only in that instance too many copies had gotten around before the forgeries began, for them to stand up. Nothing precludes the possibility of falsifying that has not been so detected. I am not sure, from your review, what Schonfield's book says, but the only phenomenon that really needs explanation is how Christianity held together before there was time for myths. You think 40 years is too short for myth to replace fact, but myths have sprung up much faster in fandom. Consider for example how Tucker seized upon and embellished, for a new generation, Degler's probably fictitious account of an orgy in Canada. Once conflicting accounts are in existence, the mechanism of selection favors the marvelous, wishful thinking. My father, born 23 years after Appomattox, repeated to his children (and I believed, till I learned more about the reputation of the North Carolina troops) that Lee said "God bless North Carolina!" and that the tarheels could truly boast, "First at Manassas, farthest at Gettysburg, and last at Appomattox." Since Dad is of North Carolina ancestry, and had uncles in that state's troops, he wanted to believe and therefore believes these fables. So it was with the gospels and their sources. "I should not close this iconoclasm without paying tribute to the pulling power of myth. I am moved, almost enough to wish it were so, by Browning's Death in the Desert where John says when he dies and

"There is left on earth
No one alive who knew (consider this),--
Saw with his eyes and handled with his hands
That which was from the first, the Word of Life;
How will it be when none more saith 'I saw!'"

Our part in the Vietnam war was no big thing as wars go, except in duration. There was doubt that 24 January really was the end of it. And, as with the Korean conflict, there was nothing to be very happy about: a war had only ended, it had not been won.

Obviously what happened to Hagerstown's winter was that New Mexico and California got it. We have also been getting someone's summer rains, and are grateful. Oklahoma looks good too this year. On the other hand, weather never has been very predictable or uniform. Nearly every section of the country has claimed that saying, "If you don't like the weather, wait a minute."

"Books about religious denominations ... are a world of their own." Their world and welcome to it.

My sister or some such person once tried to give the German words of Long Long Ago. What are they really, the refrain at least?

COSMIC FETUSES QUARTERLY (Morra)

A computer wouldn't behave like a human even if it were given all of a human's memories. Harry Warner's brain in Conan's body would operate differently. "It would be extremely unfair to duplicate only what sensory inputs he is aware of". Unfair to a computer?

SNICKERSNEE (Silverberg)

If there's absolutely no rain there from April to November, things have changed since Climate & Man was compiled. It indicates about 3.7 inches in those seven months for Oakland. But July and August got only .05.

ANKUS (Pelz)

I'd heard a similar explanation of "gopher matches" when wooden matches were still the usual thing. You strike one paper match and gopher another.

I wonder whether the last page of Wabbit Twacks is the first time in modern history that a fanzine has referred to a stefnist as Mr. ("Mr. Ackerman".)

GIRLS I REMEMBER (Wyszkowski)

From most people this kind of article would be dull, but i read it attentively, being more interested in the reflections of Wyszkowski than in the girls.

SNAP (Katz)

There may have been no survey to support it, but late in the 1930s Collier's advertised that its readers were young families on the way up. And earlier in that decade, about the time i was a coupon clipper, some magazine advertised that its readers contained a smaller than usual percentage of people who just clipped coupons for the sake of free samples. (When postage was 2¢, it wasn't a losing proposition.)

The title of Berry's article reminds me of a conversation with a lawyer whom i considered a contemporary. I asked what the popular motto "Keep on Truckin'" meant, and he made a guess. Then i remarked that trucking was one of the steps in the Big Apple. He said "What's the Big Apple?" I can't tell what trucking was from experience, having been too young or disinterested at the time, but the 793.3 section of my library yields (besides an Arthur Murray book with illustrations by Olga Ley) a booklet from 1943 which explains that trucking is sort of a cross between the Lindy and the Charleston. The portion of the description that may be represented in drawings nowadays is this: "These steps are done by lifting the knees very high. On the up-thrust of the knee, the body bends backward from the waist. On the down-step, the body leans forward. These steps are not particularly graceful, but they act as an emphasis on the rhythm."

"All the people in it were freaks", Berry says, but he referred to the persons in the front of the truck as dudes. Can freaks be dudes?

DOORWAY (Benford)

Your course seems to be astronomy as well as Physics Through Science Fiction. Apparently a similar course is being offered at the UC Denver: "this course will investigate the scientific theories embodied /sic/ in science fiction writing. An attempt will be made to analyze and separate fact from fiction and fantasy". It's called The Science in Science Fiction.

Maybe it would be truer to call your course nonmetrical physics rather than physics for dummies. I think i've seen a book by the former name, and it seemed a good idea. Nonmetrical physics--where quantitative concepts aren't more refined than "is greater than"--may be about all that a generalist needs to know. Physics courses designed only for people who are going to become engineers ktp turn off the general student needlessly.

This seemed an easy test to me, but i missed 5 according to you. "I think the statement is insufficient that "Tides come about because ... the gravitational force varies with distance from the mass in question". When the moon is over America it pulls on the Pacific ocean slightly less than on the Gulf of Mexico, but it pulls both toward a point over America. And if sun and moon were the same distance away, there would still be tides (assuming they were far enough away that Earth survived). " The statement that "Physics ... excludes living matter from its study" is not strictly true. Eddington has instanced a physics problem that deals with dragging an elephant down a slope. " When you say the end of a long rigid object nearer the star wants to have a shorter year than the far end, what do you mean? It needs a shorter year in order to maintain its orbit, but what guaranty is there that it's going to get what it needs? I've wondered the same thing with reference to statements that whenever Luna's distance from Earth changes its speed will change accordingly. Conservation of angular momentum would shorten the period as Luna gets closer, but could not increase its speed, verdad? And if tidal drag causes it, there wouldn't even be conservation of angular momentum as far as Luna alone is concerned. " You overlooked the answer that seems intuitively right, that the tail of a comet streams behind as it moves. " 32 b is something new to me. I suppose it depends on the assumption that we have finally the correct answer to how planets are formed. (32 b says that indirect evidence that stars of particular spectral classes may have planets depends on communication of angular momentum from the star to its possible planets.)

BLIND STARLING

"Sharon Towle, a young woman of Blakean spirit who has since made her sacrifice -- in vain" is as tantalizingly vague as many passages in Warner.

I like The Riders from the Walls.

How have you been in the business of maintaining civilization?

After the surgeon general's report there was a decline in smoking. Lately i think the percentage of the population is holding about steady, which could allow increasing absolute sales volume. The only datum i have at hand is from a UPI article in June, which says that 70 percent of adult American women, and 58 percent of men do not smoke. " You wrote "wirtue". Polish w = English v. There are a number of slips in this mailing, but i won't trouble you with them.

FOOLSCAP (Berry)

A better way of removing a wart is with dry ice.

Ref fuggheads, "Them" and "Us" isn't necessarily a paranoid worldview.

"perhaps I wouldn't be that different at all", like Greg's "little effect at all" (comet tail), suggests you hadn't made up your mind what you meant. "It" always refers to something incompatible with laughing. Firsttime i heard it was at a campout of Northwest Conferences Inc where the narrator attributed it to the sole survivor of an Indian massacre, scalped and half full of arrows, whom a late trooper asked "Does it hurt?"

I echo your question and comment about Redd's worldview.

JOHN W CAMPBELL WRITER EDITOR LEGEND (Bangsund)

I doubt that Campbell is more influential in sf's career than Gernsback or others. "I wouldn't put Williamson with Merritt in "the yearning super-beautiful school". "I don't believe that rubai as quoted is in any edition of Fitzgerald. Both the first and the last say "Re-mo/uld it nearer to the Heart's Desire!"

PHILOSOPHICAL GAS

What's a Leaving subject? "Well well, if the ancient Greeks didn't use accents, how'd we get the dot over our i? What do we translate H, as in Herakles?

"their voice", "their brain" --you Australians come poorly endowed, don't you all?

Against the time when Redd Bogge says polysyllables ending in s form the possessive with apostrophe alone, i'm collecting contrary examples. John Berry (no paragon) gave me Calkins's, and you (a paragon) give me Edmonds's.

In America "Mr Justice" is generally limited to supreme court judges. "Yeah, i have some dictionaries. I guess an important part of Dr Johnson's second kind of knowledge is being able to recognize allusions that will be answered in such a reference, like Hansard and Plimsoll. "Blind P isn't in its alphabetical place in Webster II, but that symbol you show is the paragraph mark. # is only the typewriter's substitute.

I'm surprised at your statement that fanzines are said to have started when the prozines reduced their lettercols. "For some, the medium is far more important than the message" is less true of fanzines than of mundane a-jay. "Many monthlies have lasted years? I doubt it. "These trifling exceptions aside, it's a good article. Incidentally, your mention of A Way of Life led me to look that story up and read it for the first time. Now there, Terry Carr, is faan fiction that couldn't have just any other hobby substituted into it.

I'm glad to know the source of philosophical gas, though it's an unfe-licitous phrase.

Ruth and i have puzzled over Gerald Carr's cover for this issue. Why in creation would a spacesuited man be sprawled on a golf green with a rabbit helping him up? And if that's his cigar, how did he smoke it thru the helmet?

"journos". Is there a general principle in modern English that -o can be substituted for the rest of a word? An occasional word like Bolos for Bolsheviks, and interlinos, has so indicated. "Which car'd you get? "How will "these people ... find fandom for themselves when they need it" if you don't spread the gospel? "I've seen the interjection "Ta" lately too. Whatsitmean? "Ah yes, and Thomas's also, and Wodhams's.

Chopin's birthday is Washington's, N.S. at least. " Well, i never offered a new national anthem, but i told the U of W that its existing anthems stank. The letter got only a couple of reactions that reached me. " I should think the workload at Hansard would vary enormously at different times of the year. " Many people forget to close parentheses, but rare is the person who closes a parenthesis he forgot to open, as you on 22 Feb. " In what way are you a number? " In what part of the FM band can one pick up the audio of TV stations? Often, during Watergate, there was little need for the video, but no radio stations were broadcasting the hearings live.

NULL F

...and if there's anything i can't stand, it's vagueness.

Say, if you weren't a judge, that'd be pretty funny.

Since he is a judge, it's twice as funny.

Ha ha, your honor.

I tried to argue that the statute of limitations had run on that res judicata.

"Would it have mattered if three people did not join the convention?" Not if it concerned only three. But if three bastards can bluff their way in without paying, is that fair to some people who had to dig deep to pay their due?

RAMBLING FAP

Gina, maybe things like "G-5/M-2/O-3"? You have to be kidding!" should be labeled Calkinscomments. "

But in- in inflammable doesn't equal n't in I couldn't care less.

My zip code is on page 1. "

The singular of parentheses is parenthesis. " I don't like to spend some time refuting a guessed-at opinion

only to have the opposed say that wasn't his opinion. I didn't feel sure enough of my guess at your opinion on the landlord business, so i asked you. If you had answered it instead of talking about the question, we'd have saved something like nine months. It reminds me a little of the nurse going on at length about why she was too frazzled to answer Juliet's question, when a "Yes" would have been enough. " I guess i was thinking of the last rejuvenation of the Rockies. That was during the Quaternary, wasn't it? And i thought man went back to the beginning of the Pleistocene. " This is a question that i could settle if i had a good index of quotations (i have the paperbacks, but that's all). We might also find the origin of the hog on ice. My question, to fapans generally, is whether your expression "It's a wise child that knows its own father" comes from the evasive answer of Perseus, Theseus, Jason, someone like that, to a king's question. I think i saw it so used, but can't find the source. I do find "there must be fire, where there is so much smoke" attributed to Zeus in Stories of the Golden Age, and wonder whether he's the source of it. " Real depreciation allowance is recapture of capital, but the so-called oil depletion allowance is not the same. When you say income taxfree every year, unrelated to any capital investment. You mean you didn't know? " Of course express and implied are not the same. When you say a landlord who has not expressly agreed to make repairs may have impliedly agreed to make them, your statement is subject to testing. If you had asserted that a person who sells a new car impliedly warrants that it is of good quality, your assertion could be checked against a statute to see whether it is true. If you had asserted that when a person sells land he impliedly promises to defend the title, you could point to statutes or common law saying so. But when you say

"it is my feeling ... that in general it is the implied responsibility of the landlord to make such repairs as will render the property tenantable", what do you base this on, other than ipse dixit? Of course it is quite possible for a legislature to enact that this shall be an implied responsibility of landlords, and I believe this has been done in some places like New York. But you seem to want the law to be changed thus without legislation just because the common law "makes slum landlordship possible". I remember the 1930s, when courts were deservedly criticized for reading the judges' preconceptions into the constitution. There is more involved than slum landlordship. If judges are free when they wish to depart from the basic principle that one who has not expressly promised something has not impliedly promised it, the law will fail, more than it usually does, in one of its two aims, certainty. As it is now, when a tenant is threatened with eviction by paramount title and asks the landlord to make it good, if the landlord goes to a lawyer the lawyer can tell him flatly, "You must purchase the title or pay the tenant's loss", and thus everyone avoids a trip to the courts. But if everything is subject to judicial whim, the lawyer will have to say, "Well, make him sue and if you get a judge who's a brother Mason or is prejudiced against such tenants, maybe you'll go scotfree." (This particular example is uncertainty about a promise that is implied in law, but the same considerations apply to capriciousness in implying what the law says is not implied.) "Your original assertion was that if anyone says astrology works, it's worth looking into. If the person making such an assertion were as ignorant of astronomy as the one who says "God lives in a galaxy 16 lightyears from Earth", would you still think his assertion was reason enough for investigating astrology? There can be two kinds of good reasons for investing substantial time in investigating a field of thought. One is that enough preliminary evidence has been produced to convince you that this calls for looking into. The other is that someone whose opinion you respect says so (e.g. the Szilard-Einstein letter of August 1939). The statement of a fool who confuses galaxies with solar systems is neither of these. "What are you referring to when you say quibble, quibble, quibble? A quibble is a side issue that diverts attention from the main point. Do the above discussions miss the main point?

Why don't they use dimes on New Orleans buses?

Traditionally Betsy is a gun, just as Rover is a dog. So when you "loaded up old Betsy for the trip back" I looked for shooting. "There may not be good diagonal routes from New Orleans to Frisco, but there is one from Albuquerque to Seattle. "I'm sorry our Mexico trip turned out to be when you decided to return. Any other time, mi casa su casa. "When you seem to be wasting your time at selling because there are no sales, will you yield increasingly to the temptation to take fanish days off?

DAMBALLA

If a good tourney is worth going a ways to see, Chuck, come to Albuquerque later this month. There's going to be an SCA show in connection with the New Mexican.

A PROPOS DE RIEN

It was "the goddam war" that kept science federally funded, its winding-down that made things tough. "Did you really get 200 responses (negative) to your jobhunting letters? "Au contraire, statistics indicate more career-changing now than formerly. I believe the WSJ or some magazine a few years ago had articles on middle-age switches. But a few years ago was another world,

jobwise. " What are you teaching? Do you teach in English? " The only public officials required to be bilingual in New Mexico are school teachers. It's in the constitution, but many of them aren't. " I was probably more conscientious in watching good programs while my viewing was being logged. " I think of job security as well as the law in a case, but my superego is too strong to let the former prevail. Recently I had a case between a student who didn't even live in my county, and a businessman who's somewhat active in public affairs, and whom I'd crossed a couple of times before, so that he doubtless thought I was prejudiced against him. I wanted to prove I wasn't by ruling in his favor, but the student made a slightly better case. " If judges are to be elective at all (which is debatable), it seems that they ought to be re-elected primarily on the basis of their judicial acts, so citing one's decisions in campaign literature seems not only proper, but the most important thing. Of course what one cites is highly selected, even if it's taken from newspaper accounts, but at least it's something relevant to election. Most judges are re-elected or not, however, largely on negative considerations. If they haven't gotten into personal trouble (like one magistrate who was arrested for drunken driving just before election), and haven't made some grossly unpopular decision or gotten a reputation for being soft on criminals, or hard on minorities, they'll probably be re-elected except in a landslide for the opposite party. " ZPG won't mean economic disaster now that we understand money. The nation no longer depends on capitalistic borrowing to keep the money supply plentiful. Fiscal policy does it. " Remember Orwell was a Marxist. " I don't know whether it's true, but a Britannica said Negroes' forearms and lower legs are proportionately longer than other races'. Something like that might account for their athletic prowess, irrelevantly to natural selection for other qualities. " If an inferior set could be identified, a non-evil way of behaving toward it would be to avoid increasing its proportion in the population. " We had traveling lecturers at Comanche HS chapel programs before TV. I'll take the Beverly Hillbillies. " How can muscles turn to fat?

RATAPLAN (Edmonds)

Sleeping Bewdy Mate was a tolerably good story. At least there was no feghoot ending.

I'm surprised that South was winning the war two times out of three with you. If North makes the obvious opening moves to Pilot Knob and Munfordville and acts with reasonable prudence for the rest of 1861, he should hold the border states 9 times out of 10, so the northern capitals will never be in danger. " You might be interested to know that a New Zealander ordered one of my games back in '61. " The more complicated forms of the game do take longer to play. I don't consider them "more advanced", any more than Eskimo is more advanced than Chinese because the former is more complicated. I began with the complicated forms and evolved toward simplicity, and am rather proud of having kept the essence of the historical war.

All registered voters get those booklets on ballot propositions only in the states such as Washington that provide them. A short time before election. " Registration as a Democrat or a Republican is an official act in states that provide for it (New Mexico does, Washington doesn't). The governments keep lists of who can vote, not of who can't. Whether one favors compulsory voting probably depends on his political orientation, democratic or aristocratic. " What's the Country Party? " Televised congressional proceedings would miseducate the public. Politicians behave differently on camera. " Make marginotes of the comments that occur to you the first time thru Horizons.

I don't agree with Jack Speer all the time. As soon as he has written something i begin to doubt it or differ with it.

I hope today's isn't an almost chickenless society. That's almost the only meat some Americans get. Maybe it's different in front of the Outback.

SON OF WSFA JOURNAL (Miller)

I wonder how a person does so easily differentiate dreamed memories from real ones. I had a memory recently that someone asked for the crud sheets from the last Synapse, i believe. (Well, it's possible.) There are persistent dreamed locations that must be versions of actual places, but some are hard to identify. Such as the super movie theater with several different shows going on in different parts, on different levels.

It should be possible to have a set of two-letter abbreviations for the prozines in indexing, like the two-letter abbreviations for states. AZ rather than AS is the obvious one for Amazing Stories.

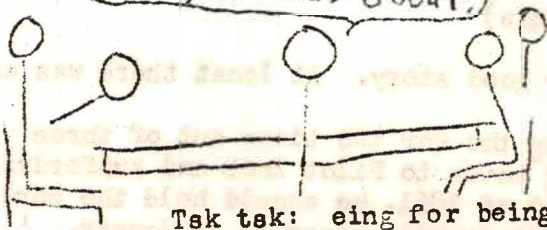
What's going to blow this thing wide open is when the Russians release their White House tapes.

That's what Nixon was negotiating with Brezhnev.

Trade them for soybeans.

That's why we'll go hungry this year.

That's what the wheat deal last year was about.



DIASPAR (Carr)

"Bradburyland" is provocative, but i don't agree with it.

The quote from The Christian Philosopher assumes that nebulas may contain as many stars each as the Milky Way. I thought this idea didn't exist before 1923.

SYNAPSE

Tut tut: "discromination".

Got a chance to play Risk again recently. It's been changed, but in unskilled hands becomes a game of chance. My son marched a lot of his troops off to Australia, whence he could not extricate them, and still won the game. " Couple days after the unworthy Anglo-Saxon incident i noticed a Chicano having trouble with the construction "prior to" plus gerund. Finally he said, "If you mean before we entered it ..."

Tsk tsk: eing for being. Corflu should be a shouting color so a cor-flued spot won't be overlooked. Also overlooked I (If), Phyll s, and l wsuit.

And i suppose "97% caffeine-free" means it's 3 percent caffeine.

Another reason for Motor Vehicle Department inefficiency is that it seems to be bearing the brunt of an employ-the-unemployable drive. These incompetents are frequently from minorities, but it need not be so; my four clerks are all of Spanish ancestry, and sharp.

Tch tch. There should be an umlaut in Schildkrotensuppe. And "frus-rate". And "Who would it be?"

I should have mentioned that treating nasalized i as nasalized short a makes more sense of riming "fin de" with "Amanda" and "Uganda", and even makes a little sense of the popular pronunciation of lingerie.

Actually it's fantasy, rather than just s-f, that contains everything except the mundane.

I saw "hap ki do" recently associated with karate.

Another already obsolete idea in Gernsback s-f was the atom as a solar system.

Gregg Calkins:

By special dispensation of the Burbees—who reopened all of the FAPA bundles Sunday after your pkg arrived late & inserted your mag therein—your Synapse was included but unlisted in the last mlg. /Chas is a gentleman and a scholar, his wife a lady and a scholar.7

F M Busby talks about Pearsalls Return and other things:

First, and aside from your comments, the published version was edited heavily by Jake, and not always for the best. ... Now I see why so much of Galaxy/If reads blandly and much-alike. ...

Actually, I'd say he made about 1/3 improvements, 1/3 ho-hum-no-real-difference, and 1/3 harm, with his changes. ...

(... I am lazy, always have been. I compensate by being compulsive about deadlines and by working like hell when I do get in gear.) ...

I like to invent FTL drives /Why don't we call them Laneys for short?7; the trick is to go outside of what is known and ideas that can be disproven. ...

I have a different drive (the Vector Corrector, though I deleted that cutesie-poo name when I revised) in the novels—or rather, in the second one. ... Well, my understanding of Einstein is that at near-light speeds your time-vector swings over near coincidence with the other party's space-vectors, and vice-versa; you're on Tilt, and not meshing too well. So first I have the drive having positive traction on some aspect of space-time, and then other circuits that (power-requirement varying only linearly with velocity) hold those dumb vectors where they belong. Since the vector-swing is what causes time-contraction et al, the only effect of exceeding lightspeed is that your drive-wakes become lethal to ships who cross them too close to the moving source. /Beware of confusing the map with the territory. When Skee₂ix turned the barometer to Snow, a snowfall occurred outside; but that's only in fantasyland.7 ...

I admit that I gave little thought as to when the two worlds diverged; I merely went on the theory that a lot of little things would be different or the same, but most big things would be similar until you hit a world that had really diverged. Chip Delany tried to pin that down, too, but decided that if the idea were dissected fully, possibly the story couldn't be made to work at all. So I kept it qualitative and merely hope the readership won't get hellbent-quantitative about it!

... I guess I could make a case that the personal circumstances of life are much more subject to the vagaries of chance than are, say, the progression of events in one's career. (Maybe not much of a case...)

In case you're wondering, I'm getting a big kick out of this new, entirely different Second Career. It's a lot of sweat, but a lot of fun, too. And this year, finally, it's beginning to pay off in \$\$ rather than in tiny dribbles of pp. I miss FAPA and SAPS a little, of course, but less than I expected. I'm simply not into big quarterly mailings (for 2-3 years before I finally dropped) —though I dig and sometimes even comment on individual zines that occasionally slip into the mailbox.

Peter Pan advances to the front of the stage and kneeling down pleads with the audience:

"... How about the Creature from the Corrales Lagoon? We can see him now, rising out of the Rio Grande slime below the sewage plant, clutching the First National Bank building in one writhing tentacle. Or maybe the Bernalillo Blob — creeping out of the drainage canals to gulp down tourists in Sandoval County (he'd probably get a ticket from the Jemez Springs marshall for fishing out of season)."

"Do you believe that fandom is a way of life?"

RESOLVING POWER

One of John W Ghod's more pregnant suggestions was that acuity of intellect could be analogized to the resolving power of an optical instrument.

In any given field, this may be an acquired trait. Any lawyer, and there are some dumb ones, can see significant distinctions between legal concepts that seem identical to a layman. To give an obvious example, often when a layman says he heard of a case just like this one, it turns out that one of the cases is criminal and the other civil--a vast difference, which any lawyer has constantly in mind. Consider, also, how often a layman asks "Is it legal to do so-and-so?" without any clear idea whether he means "Is it efficacious?" or "Is it noncriminal?" However, it is unquestionable that native ability plays a large role in whether a person can grasp such distinctions.

It is possible, too, that resolving power may be overused. The student who in 1938 pointed out that many Americans misunderstood "Deutschland über alles" as meaning "Germany over all" when it is more correct to translate it "Germany above all" had a valid point, but it wasn't very useful in 1938. Whether fine distinctions are appropriate sometimes depends on one's system of values. From the standpoint of many not necessarily misguided people, the difference between the Socialist Workers Party and the Workers Socialist Party is unimportant, though to members of those organizations it is vital. I would not be so tolerant of people to whom there is no substantial difference between "hippie" and "atheist". I'm not everybody.

It is amazing sometimes what plain distinctions some people fail to make. During the war, while working for Federal Union, I met a refugee from Germany, a fellow worker. She was concerned that Americans might lump her in with the bad Germans, and told how she went into an extended explanation to a Virginia farmer. She need not have worried. He cut her off with, "Well, I guess all those Europeans are pretty much alike."

"It is apparently easier to use words properly than to define them accurately."

The secular rise in interest rates has left us sometimes unequipped with tables for compound interest at rates in use, while the direct computation of compound interest for a substantial number of periods remains intolerably tedious. At the same time the higher rates have made compounding more valuable to the creditor: whereas the difference between simple and compound interest at low rates may be negligible, and the difference between compounding quarterly, monthly, daily, and instantaneously may well be ignored, at 8 percent per annum you're throwing away money if you don't calculate it.

While back I had occasion to figure the interest accumulated over something like a decade, on a note whose terms permitted adding unpaid interest to the principal every month. The rate was 8 percent, but the only tools I had were: A book of bond value tables showing net percentage return on bonds with coupons of up to 9 percent, bought at various prices, with various maturities. In a handbook of mathematical tables and formulas, tables of the amount of one dollar principal at compound interest after n years, with rates from 2 percent to 7 percent. And a cheap sliderule with a linear inch scale on the back.

How would you get an approximation of the compounded interest with these resources?

"What conventions are all about is separating the nobodies from the somebodies."
