



# SYNAPSE



Published for FAPA 150 by Jack Speer, 2416 Cutler NE, Albuquerque NM 87106

## DENDRITES

Last issue i overlooked mentioning an addition to the establishment at Two Towers. It's a 4door, top of the Rambler line, and well maintained by the owner during the seven or so years before i bought it. Though now called only an Ambassador, i think it was royalty once, so have named it from the past participle of king, Kung Foo. It was just what i wanted, until it got rearended, but now it must look forward to that minimum maintenance visited upon cars of limited futures.

Another acquisition is under my fingertips. It 's an Underwood in beautiful shape, which i bought at the city surplus sale. Dick Patten corrected the one thing that was wrong with it. So now i will retire the portable i formerly used when i wanted to type elite. It's still alive, but needs a servicing which would cost more than this Underwood did to buy.

Some of you may have noticed a new face on my Christmas card. It's Thomas Flueler (sic) of Switzerland, an exchange student who's with us for a school year. Keen, industrious, and interested in almost everything. Not particularly s-f so far, though.

I might have finished this issue a night sooner if i hadn't taken the time to read Edgar Cayce on Atlantis, intending to review it herein. Then the space wasn't available. Next time, maybe. Right now, a teaser: Did you know that Atlantis is going to rise again, beginning in 1968 or 1969 and culminating about 1976?

Meanwhile, i'm going to get the right pagenumber this time for the first Epimetheus.

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# EPIMETHEUS

Mailing 148

Spring has come on groundhog's day here. Not a cloud in the sky; temperature in the fifties. But there are two mailings to review; i must shake off the fever.

## FANTASY AMATEUR

If you told all members to send duplicate ballots to two tellers, some would not do it. Then what would be official?

I don't believe i got Pelz's postmailing either. He is back in illegally. Missing a mere member may not be fatal, but missing the sectreas shd be.

## RAMBLING FAP

You were not a crottled greep unless you were ready to be eaten. You were crogged.

Poor people litter more than welltodo people because they tend to be slightly less civilized.

Considering how many people are said to be younger than their years, and how few look older, looking one's age is a poor average.

There is a lot of confusion, especially in Shakespeare, between modifiers that refer to the doer and modifiers that refer to the doee, but to say that John Bangsund and Sally "are enviously happy" is far out. Enviably.

Strange. To me, the desert stars when first i saw them in September 1943 seemed close, not remote. And even more so in the Sahara in Sept 44. " You had a fortunate class if all changes in appearance were for the better. I dread going to a reunion of my class (the next one won't be till 1978) because i expect that all but me will be mere shells of their former selves. " You and i both lack a tour of duty as sectreas to have filled all offices in the organization. Shall we flip to see who takes on Bill Evans next election?

Burlblings: "Elmer and Rachel Perdue"? I thought they were divorced decades ago. " Cora has learned to imitate her husband's narrative-hook openings.

## SKIFFLE (Stiles)

Are the mechanical men that aren't Marx mostly Engels?

You inserted a comma in "many other, funny, talented people", and i don't think you should have. I don't know what the rule is; probably something to do with restrictive and nonrestrictive modifiers.

## COGNATE (Hickey)

Why does "good journalistic style dictate absolutely never use the 'I' "? If there isn't a good reason for it, don't obey it. Professors' crazy ideas call to mind an argument between Pat McCraw and Buz, in which Elinor Busby and i were the go-betweens. Pat had been rewarding pupils in her 8th and 9th grade science-fiction and writing class with points for adjectives and adverbs used in their stories. She said their trouble was that their characters were faceless, their actions colorless. Buz was horrified at such encouragement of the natural enemies of verbs and nouns, and went on at some length about the peculiar ideas teachers foist on their charges. Pat answered that her pupils didn't have the vocabularies

to put the characterizations into the verbs and nouns where they perhaps belonged. However, she said yesterday that she no longer gives points for the modifiers. "I wonder what liquid paper and corflu are chemically. The latter i suppose has a lot of what is in glue and spray paint." "Burgeoning population doesn't put any important limit on storage space for paper records. There's plenty of room in the country for much more storage, but what you want is storage within easy access. I found it somewhat inconvenient to go all the way to Tucumcari for roofed storage, and finally took the radical step, for me, of tossing law books into a room of Outrider Hut where i knew the roof leaked.

When you speak of slashes of azure, cobalt, pink, sky blue, coral, deep pink, and maroon in the eastern sky, aren't you really talking about continuums? "There is a Rocky Mountain goat, but big horn usually means sheep. We have them within sight of Albuquerque, roaming on Sandia mountain.

#### GRUE

Take it from an earthworm farmer, those worms don't generally go limp. Only when they're practically drowned. "Hey, the rural me likes that expression "A book I'd been working on all winter was getting down into the short rows". I'll bet some FAPAns confused that with short strokes. " "Usonian" fits better, but i still think the form that a French book tried to popularize for American was "Usonian". "Your vehicles must all be adjusted to run their best at very high speeds, if they can overcome the formula for air resistance and justify your statement that they get as good mileage at 65 as at 55. "Perhaps the reduction in highway fatalities is as much connected with the generally soberer mood of the country, as with reduced speed.

#### PHILISTINE QUARTERLY (Markstein)

How do you pronounce the backformation misle? Open syllables with a short vowel are not comme il faut in English (though i would almost put the ah-sound, which ends many words, in the same phoneme as short o), but if you pronounce it mislee, it 's not backformed from misled.

#### BETE NOIRE

You don't mean hence, you mean thence. And you don't mean the shift lever, you mean the line spacer. "One often has to adjust his touch to a new typer, even the manpowered kind. But don't electric typers have a sensitivity control? "I too was bothered by the electric typer humming and hurrying me when i composed on stencil. The anxiety factor decreased after Dick Patten, who is expert in such things, told me it draws very little current when idling and that i contributed to the energy shortage by shutting it off while i think. "What's vomposia? "Something you said moved me to write "Larry" in the margin. I think it was <sup>intended as</sup> a confession that while the Albuquerquean of that name may be the world's only automobile necrophiliac, i must be the original typewriter necrophile. As early as 1934 i traded for a typer that would never type again, and i have several <sup>corpses</sup> in my attic. Also branched out and bought a bookkeeping machine of the mechanical era, which is interred in Outrider Hut.

#### DAMBALIA

How do you adjust the dryness or sweetness of a wine before bottling?  
" Gee, do you really sit on your front porch in the heat of the evening? I thought that last happened around 1946, and that front porches are used nowadays only to shelter the mailbox.

Let me explain Bangsund's joke. Gross ignorance = 144 fen refers to a basic unit of the dozenal system. " I think your story of the Eskimos' reaction to hellfire is apocryphal. That's the way many preachers' stories get started: a quip or a speculation blossoms into an anecdote.

To me the surprise was that Congress called Nixon to account on Watergate.

You watched the anatomy students working --on stiffs? Speaking of necrophils, have you heard of Buz's acquaintance who recognized a cadaver as a late friend?

In a country where the water is unsafe to drink, does mixing it with wine make it safe?

#### NEVER COMES THE DAY (Vardeman)

I'd think bow and arrow much superior to atlatl-spear. " Your remarks on anti-porno nuts and anti-gun nuts imply that America is in danger of being pornoless.

#### WELTSCHMERZ (Crayne)

Bill Evans has sort of preempted this title.

I don't see that a convention committee is morally obligated to pass on to the next convention a pass-on equal to what it got. The pass-on should be a cushion, to absorb losses, and destroy the argument that "we take the risk of loss, so we should have the profit".

#### A SAD STORY (Boggs)

I'll ask again. If one person can be a cohort, what's a hort?

#### DESCANT

My kids love the explanation of the hamza in Caravan the Story of the Middle East: "Wha' a lo' a li'le bo'les!"

Well Norm, you're an example for the traditional difference between fen at the typer and fen in the flesh. I'd have thought you were six feet something. Milt Stevens seems to be another example.

I think Science will solve the energy problem one of these years. There may be some lean times before that happens.

Yes, I was still reading, and chuckling over "a bottle with a message in," and I did the same on rereading just now. " This Sidney Coleman who's famed for his mastery of the semicolon should give you a lesson on: "I always say that to Gina when we are in the States: she hasn't much enthusiasm for bars, but sometimes she'll go along". (I went away just then, out of respect for Harry Warner, to watch Penelope Wood in Penelope, but she was nothing.) Man, if you

confuse the Adirondacks with the Catskills, you need to look at my relief map.

Gina's "I like the NY mountains <sup>per se</sup> ~~not the~~ any of the New England countryside" suggests another confusion. Before you visit a foreign country, you ought to read up on it. I don't know that it's true that the western edge of the eastern mountains is more crinkled, nor that the eastern edge of the western mountains is.

ERG (Jeeves)

What are stencils made of? How would you make them from scratch if you couldn't get them at your stationer's? I've experimented with ordinary food wrap wax paper, and even when scratched, it doesn't let much ink through.

You speak of saving dynamite for Christmas. Over here we think of firecrackers at Christmas as a Southern custom. ~~is it British too?~~

electrolysis, i believe, objects corroded beyond recognition can be restored remarkably well. There was a story in Astounding's golden age in which the method was extended to restoration of prehistoric animals.

Did that Mars stamp show both polar caps at the same time?

It 's a subjective thing, and all one can do is cast his vote: I don't react to The Waltons as "pure saccharine soaked corn". But i concur in three other votes you cast, on the back page: where you can't form a taste for wine, jazz isn't your bag, and the occult isn't up your alley.

SYNAPSE

Speaking of juvenile books, i was reading along in one, probably about inventions, when i came across the statement that before the invention of the horsecollar, the rope used to connect a horse to a load "cut off the poor animal's breath" every time he pulled against it. That resonated with a passage from Lest Darkness Fall. I looked and sure enough, the juvie was by L S de Camp.

No, special issues of Life still appear.

SAMBO

Passing over a number of stylistic flaws to deal with the plot, i note that as it turned out, the existence of an un hypnotized town was unimportant. This is an oldfashioned story with the simplicity and implausibility of the oldies. But it brought back the feeling of those days and it was fun.

SNICKERSNEE (Silverberg)

Have you mixed cactuses by growing part of one plant onto part of one of another species? George Fishbeck showed how to do it, and said they take to one another easily.

STARTRAIL TO GLORY (McEvoy)

You seem to say short stories are a turn-of-the-century invention. What happened to Poe? " A story i had published in a Seattle fanzine, probably Toskey's, would not have been better as a novel. It postulated Earth where men were always blind, but were civilized and enlightened. Its point was to show how they could discover astronomy.

One who finds the 1 to 10 rating system easiest, and wants to do his egoboo voting that way, can adapt the block-of-points system to it. Say you're allowed 40 points in a category, just rate the top eight.

I never daydream about being someone else. " In my home, the scurrying in the walls was mice, not rats.

After you retire, you probably won't be able to see how those several thousand movies come out on TV. The threshold of oldness for movies that will be shown is slowly moving forward, except for those that somehow qualify as classics.

The fan artists whose amateur status you question: Do they receive any of the proceeds the auctions?

I keep all the Land negatives i can. I hope there may be a way to use them to make positives. Even if there never is, they provide a permanent record of pictures that often have to be given away.

How can you give short shrift to an event? Events don't need shriving.

Strange that the only Halm you found in a local history was merely a lawyer, if one of Julia's brothers became mayor.

If massacres by the Palestinians did not lead to either punishment or reprisals, what would deter the Philistines from going over and shooting some more Jews any time they felt like it? " Aiding in ransom should be prohibited. It would be rough on the next victims and their families, and would probably be circumvented to some extent, but it might prevent the kidnaping after that.

Walkathons were before my time, of course. Do you remember who provided the money for prizes and expenses and profits? The contestants, spectators, or who?

The most powerful stations for my hometown area, WFAA Dallas and WBAP Ft Worth, used to share the 800 kh spot where you say there are few or no US night stations now. But i think they've moved over to 820 or thereabouts.

I did wonder about a couple of things on Penelope the other night. Peter Falk always catches his criminal, so what kind of punishment did Natalie receive? And i also wondered who played the part of the little old lady at the beginning of the movie, but your sound tracks wouldn't answer that.

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'Pootop cans don't litter. People do.'

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#### Basic English and Its Uses:

"... These 'operators,' in combination with other Basic words, translate adequately more than four thousand verbs of full English. And they do it sometimes with gain in force and clarity. ... The use of these words, in place of more learned-looking words, has for centuries been increasing for simple, colloquial, informal speech and writing. Students of the history of English knew, of course, that words like make, take, put, get, and give had been extending their spheres of influence in the language, but no one before Ogden's demonstration realized how vast a domain these unobtrusive little words had won. ... People inserted and extracted less and less, put in and took out more and more. ... Every language is under constant attack by the tongues of its less expert users. One has only to watch--in a Chinese university, for example--the degradation of such learned words, when used without awareness of their implications, to see that they need protection. Basic English, by providing invulnerable but adequate substitutes for these more delicate instruments, can serve our language as a fender. It can guard full English from those who will blur all its lines and blunt all its edges if they try to write and talk it before they have learned to read it."

# EPIMETHEUS<sup>7</sup>

Mailing 149

DIASPAR (Carr)

Iggy "I think it's Brett Sterling under a penname". " They don't really have Planet of the Apes conventions, do they? The TV series wasn't too bad, but such of the movies as i saw were awful. " Ray Nelson's Paul-Goldberg bacover was good.

BETE NOIRE

Buz is named Francis, not Frank. " You knew of Dick and Pat's libertarian tendencies. You also knew, and could not have forgotten in 1964 when you wrote, that they had to tell Breen no more molesting of their little girl. Why then were you "still mystified by their ambiguous attitude"? " What is eloquent about "You simply don't do that to a man."? I recall an uncomplimentary compliment to the traditional Englishman's explanation for anything he tells his son not to do: "It simply isn't done."

HORIZONS

DBThompson did call himself the sage of something else. Ironically. No, i'm afraid the Coca-Cola commercial is the original, the cleaned-up version a derivative.

There has been a change in the pension law, requiring pensions to be fully vested after fewer years than you've worked. But i don't suppose it's retroactive. You wouldn't want to take advantage of an ex post facto law, would you?

I see your local library turns books over to a used book sale after damage. I so rarely see library books at the sales i haunt, even those of Friends of the Library, that i figure those i do see must have been stolen.

To the contrary, i thought murder was a crime on which the statistics are more reliable than on most. A murder is more undeniable than a rape, for example.

Whyncha look it up? Our latest almanac is in the room with Ed asleep, but the 1969 Information Please gives the principal Mormon church less than 2½ million. They've been growing fast, partly by biology, but they can't yet be in a position to challenge Methodism's 11 million. As for the Christian Scientists, they don't give out statistics, but the 2,900 churches and societies shown by the 1948 IP would have to have several thousand members apiece to be comparable. To be sure Mormonism is later than Methodism. I remember a novel in which a pioneer heading through the Gap during the Revolution said to a couple about to consummate their wedding by a Methodist preacher, "If you ain't married now, God help you." Since the Book of Mormon prophesied the success of the Revolution, it was obviously written some time after; forty-odd years later.

That's nothing to be surprised at. Fen twenty years younger than we are contemporaries of men who fought in the Civil War, for i was in my late twenties when i visited the hospital room of Washington's last veteran.

I suppose few people go to drive-in movies alone. Does management try to exercise any control over the ages of kids in the car when an X film is on?

Without much thinking upon it, i feel that what we need more is a new name for real poetry, id est composition in which there is a tension between form and meaning. Much of what is now being presented as poetry--at least, it is printed divided into lines--is indistinguishable from prose. I quote from Power: "one day i learned to listen and that day i heard the sounds of laughter and of happy people but, most of all i heard the sound of love. now i try to listen more often because i know if i listen i will hear the sound of love again." That was prant (strong participle from "print") as 19 lines, but that didn't make it real poetry. Maybe this all began with what Shafer or somebody called the ironic prose of the Spoon River Anthology: "My thanks, friends of the County Scientific Association, for this modest banner, and its little tablet of bronze. Twice I tried to join your honored body, and was rejected, and when my little brochure on the intelligence of plants began to attract attention you almost voted me in. After that I grew beyond the need of you and your recognition. Yet I do not reject your memorial stone, seeing that I should, in so doing, deprive you of honor to yourselves." Since i have omitted the cues of capitalization, can anyone restore the original 14-line division of this?

The chauvinistic rule is that one congratulates the groom and felicitates the bride. If it were vice versa, one would seem to be expressing what was the folk belief, and therefore not to be spoken aloud at the wedding, that marriage is a victory for the woman.

I'd guess the straw skimmers were advertising for a convention bid. I have one of a batch passed out to candidates who attended a political open house at GE; the band on it says "I am a candidate". " Though i have trouble recognizing anyone without that eyeflick at the nametag, i sometimes conceal it successfully. When i greeted Pogo with "How are you, Patti?" she was gratified at the apparent recognition, having missed the flicking. " "my painstakingly created counterfeit" --i knew it all the time: you're really robust, but you felt you needed a characteristic by which you'd be easily identified. Joe Gilbert or some such once held forth on the gimmicks one could use this way, but i don't remember the main ones any more, just the spelling of one's name without capitals. " I tried to think of examples of fen living in the same general area with the same first and last names, but all i could think of was John Berry. " "Maybe it was the wind-up kind of television set" is a neat concept. " The reason "Nycon" was a putdown was that the Futurians disputed its right to be called a world s-f convention. " How slow is 4sj's heartbeat? Below 60? " One could write an essay over your embarrassment that your bag lunch looked like a bag lunch and "hoping that I'll get over such introspection when I grow up." " If fen are to watch the costume parade on closedcircuit TV, they might as well view the tapes a thousand miles away. I may have already spoken of my feelings at watching JFKennedy on a large TV screen when he was simultaneously more or less visible with the naked eye. " Terminal illness in the bustation is nice too.

#### AMOR (Wood)

Trust the British to find a more difficult way to streamline their mail addresses than zip code: "S4S OA2"

Are you Woods related to Ed Wood? " You would be chalantly cataloging a book only if you did it warmly. " Is this "best writing of my entire academic career" the dissertation on agrarian novels that bores you so?

ON THE BRINK (Collins)

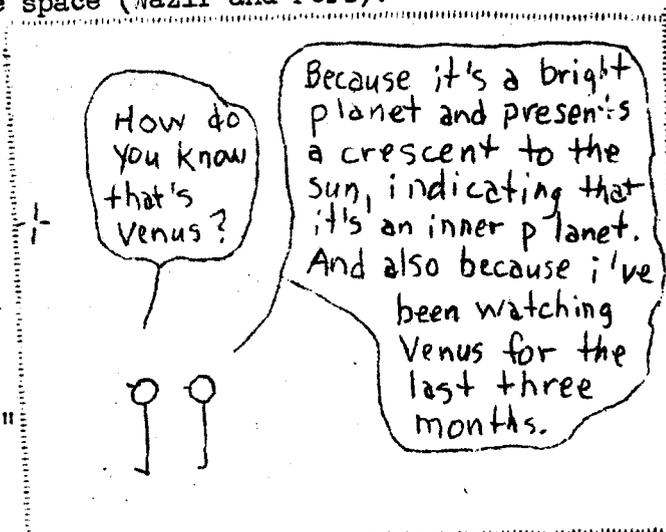
Did Stevenson and Hawthorne publish their own zines? Both wrote fantasy fiction, so it wouldn't be surprising. " Does the library of amateur journalism include Comanche Comment and the Mussolini Mocking-Bird? Smith accepted these carbonzines, but your statement that the stray zine from Podunk began to disappear makes me uneasy.

KITTLE PITCHERING HUBBLE DE SHUFF (Miller)

It's a good idea to write your first page last, especially if you use it to introduce the reader to your contents. When, as here, you didn't know what you were going to fill the issue with, your introduction was more than usually wasteful of our time. When, after a lot of that sort of thing, you said "So much for the important things", you weren't the only one that groaned. " Your losing a scholarship to defend your hobby confirms my diagnosis that you're extremely inner-directed. " When you list the film 1984, you should specify which one. " I started an ancient Haggard paperback, but it got under way too leisurely to hook me. " If you can't think of something on which to do your eight pages, why not make mailing comments? " I might be interested in reading of your family trip in England. I didn't know you had a family. And i'd like to visit England. " As you discussed the nature of fairy chess, it occurred to me that this is like LASFS poker: Take the standard game and change one or two things at a time. " Does Warp chess mean anything different from deleting the two middle ranks? " If one player spots the other all his pawns, which has the advantage? " In Kriegspiel chess, since an illegal move is simply retracted without penalty, it would seem possible for a good guesser to feel out his opponent's positions. " How can you "leap" if you can only move one space (Wazir and Fers)?

MOONSHINE

My old Goode's and Hammond's don't recognize Lafayette Calif, nor do my Columbia encyclopedias, but the Rand-McNally road atlas places it just north of Oakland and gives it 20 kilopersons. Stranger club, not Strangers. " What's a send-up? " The chainzine titles Funtasy and Grotesque have been otherwise used, one by the immortal Edgar Allan Martin. " "(to lighten it, y'see)" is a sophisticated parenthesis. " Have I confessed that i too had a short career as editor of a religious paper? I ran a reprint from Sweetness & Light. " Was Eryth Eydth the name Tigrinia was born with?



FANDIARY AND FAPA COMMENTS (Goodman)

1794, lessee, that was when the Terror ended. That's a good analogy between always being ready for the last war, and socioeconomic programs to deal with problems that no longer exist. The only way out that i can think of is a timescope.

I think i have some of those travaille-famille-patrie coins, along with a lot of paper money from Algeria during the war.

There is more reason to the notion that failing brokerages may survive by merging, than to the notion that divorcees should marry each other.

What was the 1962 supreme court decision outlawing fun?

I eat spaghetti with a large spoon.

Story ideas may come in lengths, but they grow. What started as a short-story idea with me ended as a 30 kiloworder.

#### FAPA BOOK THE MAILINGS (Pavlat)

I published the Clayton Astounding Index. There's a pair of tetrahedrons on the title, and "Edited and Published by Jack Speer".

The Fall and Winter F44 Sustaining Programs that you sic are probably from stencils i cut in Africa, run off belatedly and badly (and with one page missing) by Suddsy Schwartz.

I see Harold W Cheney anticipated Richard E Geis in giving his fanzine his own name.

You are puzzled that Elmer was elected president in spite of his responsibility for the mailing foulup. Probably the reason is that the election had taken place already.

I don't remember, but the New Testament may have been included in the 42d mailing. Acky used to collect bibles distributed to the armed forces.

I believe you're mistaken in attributing "Three Eve" to Maddox. If you look at the 43d mailing tabulation, you'll see Three Eye properly credited to Henry M Spelman III. Later he changed its name to The Chronicler, whose v character had three eyes in his head instead of after his name.

The inclusion of fanzines in a mailing where they're illegal is a fact, and there seems little point in saying they should be "excluded" from a listing.

What Leiber or Lieber had New Purposes in the 46th mailing?

#### BEFORE YOU VOTE (Pavlat)

"A program to reduce County expenditure for contracted refuse collection" sounds like the kind of pretended economy that we liberals put in our campaign literature prominently. You might be able to make a little money from recycling newspapers, but cost of refuse disposal is going to go up anyway. Likewise your emphasis on zero base budgeting to encourage fiscal responsibility. No doubt some cuts can be made, but i doubt the savings thereby would offset needed new spending.

I suppose teachers understand the abstractions in "Community involvement in educational planning, curriculum development and the budgetary process for all levels of education", and that they're the only people expected to be interested in it.

Does the law require that your junior treasurer say "by authority"?

#### OF CABBAGES AND KINGS AND BABY TURTLES (Pavlat)

How many candidates were in the primary? Sometimes in a crowded race, you can win a plurality by taking a strong stand on issues.

Often the big dixonary will tell you whether a plant is American or from some other continent. I have a better source, the 1937 Yearbook of Agriculture (though it's remarkable how few books on farming get into the book sales

go to; and if farmers had to depend on techniques explained in general encyclopedias we'd starve.) Most vegetables were developed in Europe, or the Old World at least. You are right about corn and sweet potatoes being American, but you forgot that Irish potatoes too originated in America. Beans and what we call squash are also American plants. Pumpkins came from the Old World, and by 1534 had spread to the St Lawrence river, presumably from the West Indies :another indication that there was more commerce in barbarian societies than we sometimes think. As for animals, dogs and turkeys were about all that the North American Indians had (the dog probably not an indigenous species), though Prescott noted a report of domesticated bison. South America had the llama and a relative.

I have a Tour of the World in Eighty Days that doesn't name its translator, as well as one which <sup>names</sup> George M Towle, but i'm sure Verne didn't translate his own books. I also have a Count of Monte Cristo with no translator credit. I skied last winter once, first time in years.

PHILISTINE QUARTERLY (Markstein)

Your opinion about the power of the press has two facets: one, that it doesn't exist; two, that it will be used benevolently. The power in use has two other aspects: protecting the Fourth Estate's power; and using that power for extraneous ends. The first of the latter is still much in evidence. You see it in the haste with which legislators scramble to enact shield laws etc. I saw it recently in the defeat of a legislator who introduced a bill to tax the advertising revenue of the newspapers (there's no sales tax on them). As for use of the power to other ends, no liberal who read the papers in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s can trust that they will always be benevolent. While few words are completely interchangeable, it does not follow that we should have both medicine and medication, ktp. There are different reasons for adjudged and decreed, devise and bequeath, bequest and legacy, executor and administrator, and other words that find their way into stereotyped couplets and triplets, but there is no need for more than one word in each instance. There is no better reason to tax people's memories with these synonyms than to tax their memories with English spelling. Where an unnecessary word is short enough, e g cede, its abandonment leaves a morpheme for other use without risk of confusion. Jelly, jam, preserves, and marmalade provide another instance of unwelcome complexity; most of us would be happier if we could use one word for all of them and be specific only about the flavor, which is what we're interested in.

The

basic reason people strive for money and power is that those commodities promote survival. Egoboo is a poor substitute. But in the West, recently, survival hasn't been much of a problem, so we confused egoboo with the real thing.

I suppose Mrs Byrne's dictionary of unusual, obscure, and preposterous words contains all the authentic collectives that inspired such new creations as "a gabble of ..." Such provide further examples of unnecessary words. So do the different names for the male, female, and young of animals. I have scarcely gotten over the discovery that hog is not the opposite of sow, as i assumed for many years.

DAMBALLA

How does the SCA divide up a title when there's a divorce? For that matter, how did Middle Ages?

A local club can oversee ballot counting.

When you and your classmates are 62, it should be even easier for many of you to go to reunions.

Surely either you or your mother qualifies as head of a family, so can make wine.

Gules a houn' dawg statant or is the official blazon of an army unit, probably a division, many of whose original soldiers were hillbillies. The motto is Don't kick our dawg.

The Spirit of Berkeley wasn't blank verse. You can see the meter in blank verse even when it's not split into lines: "So all day long the noise of battle rolled among the mountains by the winter sea until King Arthur's table, man by man, had fallen in Lyonesse about their lord". Put the punctuation into The Spirit of Berkeley and without the lines you'd never know it for poetry: "Slung to the back of each rider is an infant whose soft flying hair is crowned by the snowy litter of plum trees in blossom, under which they speed."

#### DIFFERENT

Restrictions (such as meter) heighten art, but there can be too many restrictions. Harlan has commented on the time framework for Star Trek. An example of more severe restrictions that have nearly ruined an artform is the requirement for droppability of the first three and one other frame in Sunday comics, and the attempt to tell the whole story in either daily strips or Sunday page or both.

Would that show business had a taboo similar to "No stories about writers as such." " Does miscellaneous point 7 mean that it's all right to use actual names and places if you don't treat them derogatorily?

#### RAMBLING FAP

Stable of writers comes from racetrack usage.

Meaning of "The king is dead; long live the king" was clear in The Prince and the Pauper.

It doesn't rain daily in Seattle. Climate & Man shows 120 average annual days with .01 inch or more precipitation, 80 clear days per year (which I suppose means cloudless).

Gregg, I don't know whether you're an alcoholic, but you're a calorie-holic. Every mailing we hear how you're going to reduce, and you keep on swilling up the hydroxyls, as if you couldn't stop.

All knowledge is contained in fanzines, but it isn't all true. " I suspect that Chas built his narrative hook on a single payoff.

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"Does 'Bug off!' mean 'Begone!?' I'm not up on the latest slang."

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Further on the fen-are-first-children theory, this from "Truth & Trivia": The eldest in the family is most likely to succeed, but pays a price in greater tendency toward suicide and worry, and fewer friends. Other characteristics: More dependent, conscientious, ambitious, anxious, sensitive to pain. Marry earlier, less likely to become alcoholics or delinquents, better readers as children, do better in high school, predominate in Ivy League colleges and graduate schools, more conformist and tradition-bound, insecure, less practical, etc etc.