

UL #4 from Norm Metcalf, P.O. Box 336, Berkeley 1, California, USA and for the duration to be found at Box 1262, Tyndall AFB, Florida, USA. This is intended for the Sep 61 OMPA mailing (the 29th). For ramifications of the meaning of the word "duration" tune in President Kennedy on your time machine's radio. Crudpub # 31.

#### Amble #6 - Archie Mercer

I'll agree that a few more members treating OMPA as their "Number One Apa" would cure our ills. However, there are also a few monapans to be considered. Going by the roster in Off-Trails #29 (28th mlg) and excluding the newly joined the following owe activity: Caughran, Dietz, Gerber, Lewis (though I've received three postmailed zines from him), Main, Pavlat, and Rispin among the multiapans and among the monapans we find Bentcliffe (who has a most notable excuse going by the name of Epitaff), Burgess, Ford, Groves (who just joined and has contributed a portion of his required activity), Madle, Potter, Roles, Sanderson, Shorrocks and Thomson. The monapans owing activity outnumber the multiapans 10 to 7. I'd rather say it's a problem of members realizing that in order to have a good apa everyone must co-operate. We have too many people sitting back and hoping someone else will contribute.

You say your general manager's name can be gotten by adding two letters to "Widsith". I suppose his name is "Widsmith".

On what do you base your impression that John Myers Myers 'overdoes it'? I fail to see what you're driving at.

To give you the number of "places" in the various fannish apas against "persons" there are 238 "places" occupied by something like 152 people (if I remember Pelz' chart in Rache #3 correctly). Or the average apan last spring belonged to c. 1.56 apas.

One of these days I guess I'll have to read the Oz books. The Wizard of Oz was read to us in grammar school but it never generated any great enthusiasm.

I dislike having stories read to me. This is probably due to the difference between the rate at which the story is read and the rate I'd read it. Also, while reading a story to myself I'm able to go back and savor particular passages. With detective stories I can check up on the author's presentation of the clues. (I remember one Erle Stanley Gardner mystery where the person finally denounced as the culprit had an airtight alibi which was never broken.)

#### The Bullfrog Bugle #9 - Lynn Hickman

I'll jump with glee and utter loud hosannas if you'll review All-Story, Argosy, Cavalier (Munsey style), etc. My collection of them is incomplete (I mainly have the issues with fantasy and sf in them and not all of those) and I'd like to see what I've missed. Bill Evans did a sketchy rundown for Searles. I'd like to see some really thorough reviews even if it takes you several years to complete the project.

While I'll agree with you that 45 members are enough (assuming that they ever become moderately active) I do feel the mailings have been somewhat small except for June mailings. (46.6% of the memberships expire in June and deadwood traditionally waits until the last minute to send in activity so I think the connection is obvious.)

As for having a limitation on the number of non-British fans in OMPA I think it's folly. There wouldn't be enough people in OMPA to have worthwhile mailings. Only five of the 28th mailings' seventeen waiting listers are from the British Isles (I suppose the Shetlands are thus considered even though they may have other ideas). OMPA would be crippled if such an amendment passed.

Erg #8 - Terry Jeeves

I don't agree with your idea that every OMPazine should have at least one page of reviews per issue. An OMPazine should be free to print what it pleases. If you want to be guaranteed mailing comments you should join IPSO which is practically nothing but comments-on-comments-on-comments....

Your one-time only policy of commenting only on zines which commented on you doesn't seem like such a good idea. The zines which didn't comment on you might have had a variety of reasons. They didn't go for mailing comments that issue, your zine didn't spark any comments and so on. You've further mentioned that you refuse to comment on comments. I'd like to know why. When someone is talking with you do/<sup>you</sup>refuse to answer their questions?

From various remarks you and others have made I gather you consider OMPA as a sort of miniature genfandom. As proof I offer Erg. Number 8 is a genzine with its editorial, fiction, reviews and con report (of sorts). Personally I enjoy your zine but I see little point in praising such an obviously excellent zine to a group which is quite well aware of Erg's sterling qualities. Furthermore, I'm "sort of active" on the general scene and read quite a bit of general material there. When I join an apa I'm in search of something you can't find among the genzines -- in the case of OMPA, a forty-five way discussion.

Conversation #12 - Lynn Hickman

I'm also sorry that we didn't meet again at the Midwescon. Since the USAF doesn't like to grant two leaves in quick succession I was skipping the Midwescon and saving all my leave for the Seacon. And at the time I was hoping for an early out from the service to attend college. Furthermore, if I don't take any leave Uncle Sam will re-imburse me enough money to pay for a semester of college. FIJAGH.

Conversation #14 - Lynn Hickman

You ask our reactions to the various types of material you're presenting. Personally my main criteria are whether or not a zine (or a portion thereof) is entertaining and/or informative or not. The subject matter is irrelevant. Something to keep in mind is that mailing comments don't always reflect the interest or quality of the work they're commenting on. Cruddy material may evoke quite a bit of reply while good material draws no comment because the author has left nothing to say beycrd praise. And continued praise becomes banal.

De Vet's "facts" aren't all true. Major known ocean currents aren't all warm nor do they all flow from south to north. Most of them flow in rough circles tangent to the equator. Examples of cold currents are the Labrador Current (north to south) and the Humboldt Current (south to north). The return circuit seems to be at extreme depths.

Icebergs do break off from polar ice sheets and glaciers. The statement that they come from the depths may be from partial observation. Upon calving the initial shock may momentarily plunge the berg underwater before it surfaces and floats off. Anyone who says they come up from the depths must be basing his statement on a onetime observation of only a portion of the process.

What attracts compass needles is wellknown as magnetism. As for what causes the compass needle to periodically change its deviation -- it's quite simple. The magnetic poles are constantly changing their location. The north magnetic pole is moving around under Boothia Felix, Melville Peninsula, etc. while the south magnetic pole is touring a portion of Victoria Land. As for the cause of the orbiting effect I have no idea.

Conversation #15 - Lynn Hickman

I partially agree with Both Bill Donaho and you on whether or not the SaFari Annuals are mailing comments. They are comments. They are not mailing comments on the previous mailing but they did comment on a circular which was mailed out to various people. Furthermore, the SaFari Annuals are in the spirit of mailing comments.

I'll agree that the OMPA mailings have been of good quality. My gripe stands that there is more quality by means of more participation. Like you I feel OMPA could be vastly improved with only a little more effort on the part of the members.

Defenestration #1 - Terry & Miri Carr

Your use of Nigel Molesworth as the main character in "Down With Fandum" bothers me. I can't help associating him with Australian fan, Vol Molesworth.

Kobold #2 - Brian Jordan

I'm a bit curious as to your typer's keyboard. I suspect you have a pound symbol in place of an asterisk. Would you mind typing out your keyboard in Kobold? It would be interesting to see what you (and other British fans) have available on your typers. By way of comparison here's mine:

!@#%&\*()\_+  
1234567890=-  
QWERTYUIOP<sub>1</sub>  
qwertyuiop<sub>2</sub>  
ASDFGHJKL:"  
asdfghjkl;'<br>ZXCVBNM,.?  
zxcvbnm,./

*Burgess* his

I say Brian Jordan was in/rights as publisher of Burgess' Lights. (That will be ten pounds by International Money Order, Brian.) He did publish the magazine. But if anyone insists on members doing the actual mimeoing the following communique might be of interest.

Dear Mr. Burn,

I would like to be placed on the OMPA waiting list. I understand the only ones eligible for membership are those who actually mimeo fanzines. Since I've mimeod many fanzines for Shelby Wick, Rich Brown, Norm Metcalf and Eva Firestone

I meet the qualifications. Credentials are the latest issue of any of the aforementioned fans' zines.

Sincerely,  
Gestetner 260  
#573563  
P.O. Box 269  
Lynn Haven,  
Florida.  
USA

The important consideration in determining activity credit is that we have something to read. Burgess gave us reading material. He also met the constitutional requirements. Therefore I say he was within his rights.

The Russian author of Andromeda, A Meeting Over Tuscarora, etc. whose name you're trying to remember is Efremov (or a similar spelling depending on the transliteration).

Pack Rat #1 - Jimmy Groves

You ask about the segregation of Orientals. I've never seen any discrimination practiced against them anywhere I've lived. They're fully accepted. And that's out west where they're fairly common. In this part of Florida they may be discriminated against. I suspect any would be if they lived here. Some Orientals may live around here but I've never noticed any. (There are Orientals stationed here at Tyndall but the U.S. Air Force discriminates against white people in order to avoid any claims of racial discrimination.) However, I do remember one incident that appeared in the newspapers. In California some people raised an outcry when a Korean moved into a particular neighborhood. After a lot of mob orations the situation calmed down and he was at least tolerated. Arizona supposedly has laws banning marriages between whites and Orientals. William Randolph Hearst used his newspapers to whip up anti-Oriental prejudice with his "Yellow Peril". California actually had discriminatory laws enforced against Orientals. But they were repealed forty or fifty years ago. At one time immigration of Orientals was eliminated but that's also in the past. But the Oriental has far less prejudice against him than a Negro.

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Suicide -- the one crime whose success can not be punished.  
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Phenotype/Operation Crifanac #191 - Dick Eney

Receipt-for-fare on public transportation used to be (and may still be) on the Asbury Rapid Transit line in L.A. and suburbs. It was quite possible to find zone tickets under seats, lying on the floors, etc. so that with the right ticket you had only to pay the base fare to ride to the end of the line. Then the company started having each driver have his own private zones, which he periodically changed. That put a stop to riding anywhere for the base fare.

I'll accept your corrections to the events of the Japanese surrender broadcast. My version was garnered from reading articles in such serious zines of political comment as Life, Reader's Digest, etc. My memory was vaguer than the articles because I read about it right after World War II.

Random #3 - Daphne Buckmaster

As for whether apas or letters are more satisfactory I'd say letters. This may seem odd coming from a person who has let correspondence fall to pieces while maintaining apa activity. But it's a case of expediency. I'd rather be corresponding, but if I don't maintain my apazines I'll be out of the apas. As soon as I'm caught up on reading I'll go back to correspondence. And yesterday I realized I'd written 2,500 letters between Feb 60 and Jul 61. That works out to nearly 4.5 letters per day. I can remember one weekend we had off in which I wrote 49 letters in about thirty-five hours. So I've put far more effort into letters than fanzines.

Warner: I can second your comments on travel time. While hitchhiking I like to estimate how long it will take to reach a given destination. Florida has fairly good roads and not too many towns so I can figure on averaging forty miles per hour. South of the Mason-Dixon line and east of a line running north-south near Wichita, Kansas the average is about 30 miles per hour. There are exceptions. Texas east of that line is good for fifty while the Ozarks are "good" for about 30. North of the Mason-Dixon line and east of the north-south line I don't have much experience to go on. The toll roads average about 50 miles per hour while lesser roads in the eastern midwest average about 40. I've never hitchhiked in New England so I have no idea of what the average speed would be. West of the north-south line through Kansas the average picks up to 50 or better. I've averaged 55 in California (the then-current speed limit) and 60 through the desert areas of the west where drivers stay at the speed limit and rides are long. (All this based upon wearing a military uniform. In civvies cut all these speeds in half.)

Daphne: To toss in another point of view on fanzine "feuds" and amiable face-to-face relations there's the poor communications in fanzines. A typo, poor phrasing, semantics, someone's rage at seeing something in print destroying their understanding together with the inevitable time lag of replies can cause some discussions to seem like feuds. But in a face-to-face meeting each person's expression, tone of voice and inflection give you the chance to find out what each one really means. If you have a misunderstanding it can be corrected right then and there. It isn't dragged out through the fanzines.

In line with your query as to the fairness of using TAFF ballots (for example) as activity requirements I'd say no. If anyone produces 14 pages per year and sends in two TAFF ballots to make up the deficit he should be both heartily ashamed and out of OMPA. True, as you pointed out, it's legal. But it's certainly violating the spirit of OMPA. But perhaps our esprit de corps is actually esprit de corpse.

Perhaps the reason I've never made a one-to-one correlation between the church and God lies in my background. I've been brought up by aunts, grandparents and parents, each of whom has a different religion. So I've absorbed Christian Science, Presbyterian, Methodist, Brethren, Baptist and Covenant teachings. I ended up in the Covenant church because their beliefs coincide fairly well with mine. The main requirement is belief in the Bible. Otherwise there are no dogmas and only four creedal statements.

Yes, an "anechoic chamber" is one without an echo.

Hooboy, if you and Ron hate fancy dress uniforms and all that you should join the U.S. Air Force. Simplicity of uniform is one of our characteristics.

At the Pittcon a couple of Army veterans looked at my tarnished brass with disbelief. They wanted to know why it wasn't shined. They were incredulous when I told them it was against Air Force regulations to shine brass. All the lack of gung-ho-ness in the USAF is a reaction from the split with the U.S. Army. But senility is setting in. Certain high-rankers now have to have formal dress uniforms and special mess uniforms. Their wear is largely restricted to officers stationed at the Pentagon. One of these days I suppose everyone will be required to have a fancy uniform. Headquarters, USAF has now required everyone to wear all ribbons and medals on Class A uniforms (the most formal we have).

As for British military pay I spotted an ad where they wanted electronic technicians at something like four times what the U.S. government pays its military. Over here the pay is sub-standard even after you add the fringe-benefits. The hours are lousy for most of us, the housing is good for the higher ranks (when available) and poor to non-existent for lower ranks. Many duty stations are poor places to be. From what I hear Congress has passed a law stating that family quarters (even though government owned) are immune to inspection. But the NCOs complain about inspectors trooping through their houses. If they don't pass inspection they're required to move off base.

The U.S. Air Force is operated on the theory that intelligence is directly proportional to rank. However, the U.S.A.F. Personnel Testing Laboratory has shown that 87% of the re-enlistees are mentally deficient. Chances are that your supervisor is a near-idiot. So few people re-enlist. It's the same old story of all military forces everywhere.

The Running, Jumping and Standing Still Magazine #1 - Mal Ashworth

Here's another one of those exasperating zines like Belle Dietz' The Complete Story of How Not to Move. It's entertaining, fascinating, etc., etc. but there's precious little decent comment that can be made without sounding banal.

Your comments on Britain needing crackpots, eccentrics, so on sounds like many of G. K. Chesterton's stories. You must have read such stories as The Flying Inn, Tales of the Longbow and several of his lesser works where Chesterton is concerned with the death of individual freedom.

Bravo for your comment, "Wouldn't it be much more sensible to prove that, even if she is 'as good' as a man, she is much, much better as a woman?"

While I'll agree with you that a woman being 'alive and healthy' and 'acting naturally' nowhere near constitutes sex appeal they do make a good base. Take those qualities away from an attractive woman and she'd lose some of her charm. I'd say physical appearance and personality are the two most important ingredients. But all these go towards making a woman attractive.

Yes, John Myers Myers did write a book on Doc Holliday, the Alamo, Tombstone, etc. and he's the same one that wrote Silverlock. I've seen several articles of his dealing with western Americana. He seems to be an authority on quite a bit.

Scottishe #24 - Ethel Lindsay

You wonder who's against mailing comments. Terry Jeeves, Alan Lewis, George Spencer and Jean Young have all expressed distaste for mailing comments. Though I don't recall the Youngs ever having done any mailing comments the rest have

done mailing comments at one time or another while at the same time decrying mailing comments. The minimum activity crowd is against effective mailing comments. If they reply only once a year then we are losing communication. Someone who seldom, if ever, replies isn't helping much. Since these people do exist you have another argument for keeping mailing comments general enough so that some other member can reply to a comment made to a particular OMPAn. Actually, I should have expanded my comment that some OMPAns are against mailing comments to say that some OMPAns are against OMPA. When the size of the mailings began to decrease where were their contributions?

"IWW" stands for "International Workers of the World" ("Wobblies"). They made the news around WWI but I haven't heard much about them since. Our anarchist friends like Ellington and Donaho will probably tell you all about them. Just what are they doing these days?

Tackett: As far as letters of comment go I'll print all the good (plus a few mediocre) ones I receive. One exception to this is letters that arrive after the succeeding issue has gone to press. (Are you there Dick Schultz?). With my apazines I draw in a few letters of comment. Not too many but I don't run off more than a score or so extras (depending on the apa) and most of them are used for trades. With New Frontiers I receive about one hundred letters of comment per issue. 90+ are crud. All the good (and not so good) letters have appeared in NF except for (as I recall) letters from Ruth Berman, Harry Warner, Steve Schultheis, and Frank Belknap Long. These four sent letters too late to appear in the succeeding issue. I decided it would be better to have all the letters commenting on the previous issue. I think it lessens the impact of a particular issue to have comments spread out over past issues. (That is another gripe I have against postmailings. For example, Gerber's Romp #1 is three mailings behind in his comments and will be commented upon in two successive mailings. He has diluted one zine over five mailings.)

Tackett: In the U.S. standard paperbacks (not the quality ones) break down to 20% to the retailer, 20% to the wholesaler, 54% to the publisher and 4% to the author (though this may vary a bit).

### Sizar #3 - Bruce Burn

I'll tell you why I don't like most fan and/or faan fiction. It's usually of poor quality. There's enough low-quality fiction in the prozines without reading more in fanzines. But I don't mind an occasional faan fiction story as long as they're good. Good in faan fiction usually means the number of gags per paragraph or a faanish twist at the end. Terry Carr, Art Rapp, Bob Leman and a few others come to mind (certainly not Deckinger). But even with faan fiction there are more failures than successes (which is to be expected).

I agree that OMPA is "an amateur publishing association". However, publishing does not equal printing. If I wanted I could dig out some old fanzines, make a list of material I fancied, take them downtown to a secretarial service, have them stencil, run off and collate a fanzine and mail the bundle to you as A3. Since I would be paying the bill I'd be the publisher. Do you expect Mr. Hodder and Mr. Stoughton to trot down to the plant, set type, run off a book and do the binding in order to qualify as the publisher? I hope not. That's the printer's job, not the publisher's. Burgess did publish. Apparently confusion exists among a number of fans over the meanings of "publish" and "print". As I've said before OMPA should be interested only in reading material. As long

as a member produces 16 pages of reading material each year it's irrelevant how the material found its way into the mailing. If I'm wrong and the majority wants to credit mimeoing, stencilling, etc. then please turn to page 3 and read a comment to Kobold.

Through the Gordian Knot (#1) - Bill Donaho

I was going to vote for your proposed constitution until I reread it a few times and compared it with the current constitution. Essentially you have a better constitution. But, you seem deliberately vague on a number of points. 'showing proof of amateur publishing to the officers' satisfaction', 'produce a fanzine for the next available mailing' and '(OMPazine) must be the work of the member to an extent satisfactory to the officers' don't mean much. Furthermore, requiring waiting listers to acknowledge Off-Trails by the following mailing can be too harsh. A case in point. When I shipped from Lowry to Tyndall I sent Bennett a change of address. He received it okay, but slipped up and addressed it to Lowry. By the time it reached me it was near the deadline for the June mailing. One or two goofs on the part of postal employees and I would have been off the OMPA w-l. Someone in Australia or New Zealand would have an even greater chance of being dropped due to the slower transit time.

Furthermore lowering requirements to 12 pages per year would tend to discourage hitting every mailing. This comes out to three pages every mailing. The present requirement is equivalent to 4 pages per mailing. I would rather see deadwood coming through with 4 page zines each mailing than six page zines every other mailing. (This is assuming that deadwood can be persuaded to hit every mailing with minimum activity.) Actually I'd like to see the 16 pages per annum feature retained. I feel it's better if some of the members will get out and push rather than amending the constitution.

I'm also against increasing the membership. The present membership is fully capable of providing large enough mailings. 400 or 500 page mailing are about maximum for optimum enjoyment. But all this fancy finagling with the rules would be unnecessary if a few members were more willing to participate.

I don't think your comparison of FAPA with SAPS and OMPA in the matter of membership vs. stability is quite accurate. FAPA has an effective membership of 30 or so. The rest are mostly along for the ride (which isn't to say that they don't contribute worthwhile material when they do contribute). I'll agree that FAPA's "deadwood" does act as a "shock absorber" to help put out good mailings. But I think most of them are more motivated by saving their memberships than in helping out when a mailing is of slightly poorer quality. For evidence I point to the fact that most of FAPA's deadwood waits until the last moment before sending in their eight pages. But there's enough deadwood to spread the burden around a bit. (It would seem that the memberships should have distributed themselves equally between the four expiration dates but they haven't. So that may explain the variation in mailing size aside from variations in the sizes of the active members' zines.)

Ul #3 - Norm Metcalf

ODYSSEUS GOES TIME TRAVELING When I received the mailing and looked at Off Trails I noticed "Jun 60 (sic)" after Ul #3. Turning to Ul there's a notice that it should make the jun 60 if it doesn't emulate Odysseus on the way. The last page even omits the 'typopress'. Fellow OMPAns, my blushes.



I've been told that I was wrong about the derivation of 'filk song'. It's supposed to be a contraction of 'faanish folk song'.

On the SF book club (American): Someone named Johnson (Marijane, Seth, George, etc.?) sent my name as a prospective member. For my initial three selections I picked out three books I'd ordered which they'd failed to send me. Those books arrived fairly soon. But they've now stopped sending me selections. I guess they must have cross-references between names and account numbers. So for the second time I've been dropped by the SF Book Club.

Vagary #13 - Roberta Gray

You ask why I don't contribute articles to OMPA. When I have time and inclination for writing articles they go to genzines. Thinking back I can recall writing only three articles for fanzines. One of these was in collaboration with Chuck Hansen and appeared in Amra. Another one was accepted by Amra but later rejected. Since it answered some points raised in an issue of Amra it's nearly a total waste as it stands. The remaining article was in FAPA and covered too much ground in too little space to be effective. After discharge I plan on a series of articles for OMPA. I'd like to cover various author's works and certain themes in these works. But to do a good job I'll need my collection plus plenty of time.

This story of the Japs offering to surrender came out after World War II. Eney corrected me on a number of points so I guess the essential facts are true and not "anti-Red propaganda". I've just found a book which contains information on this very subject. It's Secret Missions by Rear Admiral Ellis M. Zacharias, U.S.N., the man who was in charge of Naval Intelligence's "campaign" against the Japanese. The last part of the book concerns itself with Japanese peace overtures. Chapter 33 contains the details of the peace broadcast on 24 Jul 45, 13 days before Hiroshima and over two weeks prior to the Soviet Union's declaration of war against Japan. There had been increasing acceptance of surrender by the Japanese leaders sometime prior to this. I still insist that the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs were unwarranted brutality.

I wasn't trying to justify Japanese actions. Rather I was pointing out that the west isn't as pure as the new-fallen snow, while at the same time our "enemies" are as black as the cloak of Aesir. As for brutal treatment of P.O.W.s there are two sides to that. A friend of mine was interred all during the war. He said many prisoners complained of the scanty rations. But he said the prisoners were eating just as well as the civilian populace (admittedly rather poor). And certainly some of the guards meted out brutal treatment. But try putting city scum and hillbillies from the U.S. in charge of prisoners and see what happens. I've seen what this type of person has done to their countrymen when given a little authority. I don't want to see what they would do to prisoners when they'd been conditioned to hate them. You're going to find brutality on both sides.

Japanese are not 100% Tojos anymore than every U.S. citizen or Britisher is a Neanderthal man with six stripes on his uniform. People are people whatever their nationality. I've known quite a few Nisei and they're all fine individuals.

But individual characteristics don't match national characteristics en masse. Once G. I. Joe reaches the front lines he shoots the enemy soldier just as dead as the enemy soldier shoots him. Give the individuals a choice of fighting or not fighting and he probably wouldn't fight. (There are always a few psychopaths.)

But under our present system you put a bunch of peace-loving soldiers together and they form a murderous army. Like Ellington I'm a pacifistic anarchist by inclination. However, I don't think anarchy is feasible. Pacifism is more or less workable but mostly less. When the Soviet Union, Franco's Spain, Castro's Cuba, etc. permit conscientious objectors then I'll be pleasantly surprised.

Yes, spelunking is exploring caves.

Viper #3 - Bill Donaho

Certainly fresh air is dangerous. Don't you know it contains that deadly narcotic, oxygen? Statistics show that everyone who becomes addicted to oxygen dies. Some are able to hold out longer than others. But if they do hold death at bay they've condemned themselves to a lingering hold on life. You can't escape. Sooner or later oxygen claims its victims.

As for finding good picnic locations in the Bay Area which aren't cluttered with people try around Mt. Saint Helena (the locale of Robert Louis Stevenson's Silverado Squatters). As a last resort you might try Golden Gate Park. With nearly everyone out in the countryside the center of San Francisco might be the least cluttered.

Elinor: "Friendly" Al Lewis burst upon fandom from New York. Even I wouldn't call that "middle west". He did move to Michigan before entering the Coast Guard.

Elinor: While I've kept Wine of the Dreamers I don't know if I'll ever re-read it. If I ever do go back and re-read a sf novel it would be a hard choice. It wouldn't be on the basis of the best sf novel, just a book I'd like to re-read. Right...now...it would probably be one of these: Final Blackout, The Time Stream, Gather, Darkness, The Weapon Makers...

Elinor: The woman I know who believes women are inferior to men isn't a fan. You're right that she doesn't actually believe it. What I mean by that is that her actions bely her words. But make the statement and she'll argue the point indefinitely. After the person she was arguing with left I made the comment that they weren't inferior, merely different. She grinned and changed the subject.

Rogers: Hubbard was new to sf, but he wasn't new to the pulps. He had been selling pulp stories for several years before appearing in Astounding.

Hubert Rogers was new to ASF in '39 but he wasn't new to either sf or the pulps. He was illustrating Adventure as far back as '32 and did a cover for "Tarzan and the Magic Men" in a '36 Argosy. I'd like to see him back in sf. The last sf illoes of his I've spotted were for Raymond F. Jones' "Cubs of the Wolf" in Nov 55 and they were dated '54. I've seen some mundane dust jackets by him in recent years. I guess he's followed the trail of the shekel. And I wouldn't even qualify him as ASF's greatest cover artist. I'd say he's the greatest illustrator ever to appear in ASF.

Famous Fantastic Mysteries and Fantastic Novels were not 100% Munsey re-prints up until their sale to Popular Publications. Offhand I can think of Harry Walton's "The Bomb From Beranga" and some of Lowndes' poetry.

Schneeman's work suffered in reproduction. Roy Hunt showed me some of his (Schneeman's) originals which were far better than what appeared in ASF. But I still don't think much of Schneeman's work. Perhaps the fault lies in the fact that some illoes don't reproduce well. Lithography does have limitations. For example, the George Barr cover on New Frontiers #3 had to have three different plates made before one was successful. A Dollens in the same issue didn't come out at all. The tones lacked sufficient contrast to make a good plate without spending too much money.

Donaho: I'll challenge your thesis that if you're going to comment on most of the mailing you're obligated to comment on every zine. The reason I disagree is your own g) - I can't think of anything to say. There are zines which are highly enjoyable but don't have any comment hooks for me. To say only 'I liked this.' becomes boring.

True, adult women aren't so easy to find as adult women. Adult women are usually married so that the available supply is quite low. In this part of Florida unmarried women with appeal are rare. Most girls around here are married by 17.

Maybe there's a basic difference in our eyes that enables me to read micro-elite while you have troubles. I can take a sharp scribe and write on the head of an ordinary straight pin without eyestrain. But I have noticed that after reading microelite pica seems like macropica. Otherwise I've never noticed any difficulty.

Speaking of the Pacifica Foundation's radio stations I was listening to WTCX (FM) in St. Petersburg, Florida a few weeks back. I left the room and came back. At the end of the selection the call was given as WBAI, New York (the Pacifica station there). So I listened to WBAI for four hours until they faded out. It's inspiring to hear some really original programming once more. The closest approach locally is Florida State University's WFSU. Back home I seldom listened to KPFA. The only extensive time I ever spent listening to them was when Cisler took KEAR off the air and KPFA had the only good music on FM in the San Francisco area.

#### Romp #1 - Les Gerber

You mention the Soviets' turning towards capitalism. Haven't you ever heard of Lenin's NEP (New Economic Policy) which saved the Bolsheviks from collapse? It was capitalism under another name. And I recall newspaper mention a few years back of purges in the Armenian SSR (where else?). It seems the commissars had used their positions to turn capitalistic. And when you get right down to it the Soviet Union is capitalistic. A small minority (the Communist Party) controls nearly all of the wealth. It's a government of the people by a few for that few.

Bah! Barry Goldwater isn't reactionary. He's the most progressive senator in Congress. Just because reactionaries have managed to twist labels so that "progressive" and "conservative" have interchanged their meanings doesn't mean that the labels are accurate. Goldwater is advocating free enterprise, etc. His opponents favor socialism. Large scale free enterprise is only two or so centuries old. Large scale socialism goes back to ancient Egypt or possibly beyond (assuming some civilization preceded Egypt).

Why should FAPA members be any more generous with copies of their FAPAZines than they already are. I don't know about you but Russell Chauvenet, Chuck Hansen, Bob Lichtman and myself are receiving nearly every worthwhile FAPAZine. What more can you ask?

You're confused on Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps. No officers are drafted. The tour of a rated officer (either pilot or navigator) is now five years while a non-rated officer's tour recently increased from three to four years. The Air Force doesn't resort to the draft, they have to turn down volunteers. The only service currently drafting is the Army and there the period is two years.

Space Charge V1#1 - Alan Lewis

It's interesting to note that both you and Rich Brown joined the service as a college substitute/preparation. This is a fairly common reason among some people. But you two are the only fans I can recall who have made such a decision. I'd say getting your military obligation over with prior to college is helpful. Then there's no need to worry about being drafted, you've had some practical experience of people and places, time to think over your life and exactly what you want to do with yourself. If you do enter college, as a veteran, you are supposed to have concrete reasons for doing so. You're not going because everyone else in your high school crowd is attending.

Where did you get the idea that I haven't had any experience with W. S. Houston? If you had read U1 #1 you would have seen that George Scithers and not me hadn't had any experience with Houston, Dupla, etc.

Space Charge V1#2 - Alan Lewis

Your problem with missing postmailings is another argument against permitting them. Technically, some of the postmailers you list should be out of OMPA since their postmailings weren't legal and they needed the credit. I'd like every quarterly apa to abolish postmailings.

I largely agree with your ideas on OMPA. I do like OMPA pretty much the way it is. The mechanism is fine and can work (and has). It's lack of participation that's hurting OMPA. A glance down the membership roster will reveal the culprits.

But, according to Section 2 of the OMPA constitution material written by a member is acceptable for credit. It doesn't specify that a member must publish his own material. So if Madle, Spencer, etc. want to contribute to your OMPA--zine they should receive credit. Donaho's (and gang's) new constitution would do away with this means of meeting your activity requirements.

This concern with printing over writing seems to be a basic flaw in OMPA. Some members are more worried over who did the duplicating than what is being said.

Blush! (#1) - Lichtman/Donaho

It would help future polls if you would throw out erroneous votes. I have a feeling that some of the people who received votes contributed nothing whatsoever to OMPA during 1960. I did give John Berry some points in parenthesis because I wasn't sure or not whether he had been represented in OMPA during '60. I'm also one of those who didn't completely fill out their ballots. The

reason was simple. I didn't have the mailings on hand to properly fill out the ballot. So I cast a few votes here and there to extremely deserving members. If my enlistment has been extended I'll have to do the same next year.

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Alva Rogers, 5243 Rahlves Drive, Castro Valley, California, USA

Dear Norm:

Thanks for sending me a copy of UL #3. Not being a member of any of the apas I have to rely mainly on Donaho for reading bits and pieces from his different mailings, and anything I get personally is joyfully received.

Donaho, Danny Curran and I had a long discussion one night on the subject you discussed under Random #2. We all agreed that in fandom one found one thing of paramount importance -- people that you could talk to (whether or not they agreed with you) on any subject without being regarded as some kind of kook that is better avoided.

I was in a CCC camp in 1941 located about halfway between San Diego and LA, and it was there that I got my first taste of forced association. The conversations dealt largely with exaggerated sexual exploits, pop music, various delinquent activities indulged in on the outside, cars, and the like. The camp was about half white and half Mexican, and the relations between the two groups was pretty strained, eventually ending in an aborted race riot (which I did my best to try to avert). I found one man in the entire camp of a couple of hundred who I could comfortably talk to, even about science fiction which I read avidly and constantly, much to the contempt of my comrades. There were about six radios in my barracks, about half of them owned by Mexicans, and in the morning when the lights went on the radios went on -- all six of them and all tuned at maximum volume and to different stations, Mexican and American. God! What Chaos!

In the Air Force, in Texas, things were not much different, but I had learned in the C's that you either conformed (if only on the surface) or your life could be pretty miserable -- I conformed. Later on I finally ended up in the base hospital at Lowry Air Force Base and there I met a man who became a lifelong friend. A jazz musician in civilian life, he dug the classics and on Sundays we'd drown out the crud with the New York Symphony and on Saturdays we'd really kill them with the opera. I had finally gotten my revenge for the many hours I had been a captive audience to music I couldn't stomach. In connection with this, I couldn't agree more on what you had to say about volume. Our neighbors have a stereo in their rumpus room which is tuned to a local rock and roll station and left there. On Saturday afternoons and during parties that goes full blast for hours on end.

About me: I really goofed on Mason, didn't I? I have no excuse other than I had just finished rereading his one and only opus for Astounding, "The Phalanxes of Atlans" and discussing its anti-Semitic undertones with Leland Sapiro, and when I threw a bunch of authors on the page he just sort of popped out. I know Murder Madness had been pubbed several times (and hasn't it also been in paperbacks?) but I honestly don't think too many people today are familiar with it, even by name. Maybe I'm mistaken there, though. You're right, Wandl the Invader did come out from Ace after I had written the article. Glad to see you agree with me about the Dec 34 Astounding and I agree that Sep 41 is one of the great ones, as is the Sep 40 issue, also.

Regards,  
Alva

((Here at Tyndall I don't have too much trouble with idiots. Right now we're only five to a room. The two hillbillies have been tamed down to the point where they only play one guitar, tape recorder or radio at a time and then at low volume. Myself, I have headphones connected to my stereo amplifier. Back at Lowry the worst time I had was when I "living" in Barracks 349. We had 113 men per bay. There were usually three or more radios going at full volume -- simultaneously. Several of us got together and built a 456 KC oscillator so we could listen to our FM receivers in peace and quiet. ## If Leinster's Murder Madness has appeared in pb I've missed it. If anyone isn't familiar with it they should be.))

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Bobbie Gray, 14 Bennington Street, Cheltenham, Glos., England

Dear Norman,

When the mailing arrived Bill and I were very interested -- and very suspicious -- in the letter which you reproduced in full from William Wray. In U1 #3 you asked if any of us could let you know anything of this bloke.

We asked a journalist friend of ours who goes around investigating people like these who claim occult knowledge and faculties and he told us that the man had been exposed in a newspaper. This paper, The Empire News, has now folded, but I wrote and asked if it would be possible to send me a back issue of the paper in which the article on William Wray was printed. The paper, dated 7th August, 1960 arrived this morning and perhaps you will be interested in some of the things it says.

Firstly, he has a certificate which he claims entitles him to call himself "reverend" - which he got from an "obscure American ministerial association" -- the Universal Harmony Foundation.

He lives in a back street in Hull and was (perhaps still is) a clerk and telephonist at the Hull H.Q. of the North Eastern Gas Board. He did originally charge £1 a week for his course, but I see from the letter you printed that it is now ten shillings. And his "course on Money Success from Metaphysics" consists of two - just two - typewritten sheets. I'll quote some of the bilge from it.

"Poverty is a curse. ...the sufferer must realise that he has a deficit in God's Bank of Justice and must do all he can to put an abundance of credit (good deeds, words and thoughts) into his cosmic account."

And one of the ways "Take a saucer, place it before you. Hold a coin in your hand and say 'You are circular in nature and are the universe. To you I give generously without thought of recompense.' After this say to God: 'That which I have given freely will return to me manifold as is the will of God.' Then place the saucer in a safe place, with its contents and remove the coins next day."

This, you will notice, contradicts itself, as if you do this you are thinking of recompense. According to Wray, it is a symbolic method of receiving

money abundant.

Another method is "an old African method of repelling undesirable circumstances". In the case of poverty it might be worded thus: "I am suffering from great poverty and financial distress.". This is written on a piece of paper which is then burned. As the sorrow is consumed, your desire is registered on the Ether, and the Law of Sympathy reproduces your action in reality. After the paper has burned say to God: 'I thank thee that my distress has left me for ever. Amen.'

Eccch!

If it doesn't work you can place an apple green light in your room and inhale the vibrations from it for half-hour periods. "Meditate and strongly imagine a powerful green and golden ray of fire all round the body. Alternatively one can imagine a similar coloured ray coming from above, and entering the top of the head. You are then attracting the Ray of Abundance and Plenty."

As the "Rev." found it difficult to meditate or concentrate at home with a wife and two children, he and the journalist who was interviewing him adjourned to the local pub, where Mr. Wray said, "I have a mission to bring these teachings to the people. The mere fact that my home circumstances do not permit me to do these things myself does not mean that they are wrong." Pressed further he admitted that he had been 'pretty broke', that he may not have earned a lot of money, but believed he would eventually.

He probably will -- there's one born every minute.

He was asked if he had had a go at the course himself and confessed that he had, but had had little success, protesting that he had not got much opportunity in such a small house. He was then asked if he believed any of it and his mumbled reply was: "Some people who might not have faith might call it mumbo--jumbo. But anyway I don't believe it can do any harm."

The journalist persisted and was assured that the money received for the course "would go to several good causes I have in mind". The journalist still persisted and Cause # 2 is to finance Mr. Wray and establish a fat banking account in his name. Cause #1 is to provide a nice new home for Mr. Wray and his family. A long way after these is Cause # 3. To help and expand and start a local group of the Universal Harmony Foundation, who supplied him with his certificate as Reverend. He explained that the methods in his course are "not necessarily" those of the Foundation. He also had the crust to suggest that The Empire News help the cause by buying 50 or 100 of his £1 courses and distributing them among its readers.

Well, there's the 'gen' and I may add that all his stuff sounds like primitive and sympathetic magic. The ancient occultists who knew what they were about knew better than to ask for money. Only once could it be asked for and then only in a case of the direst need. From my knowledge of the occult, which is slight, the way he's working things is like having a battery in a torch the wrong way round. In other words, what he's doing won't work because it is not connected properly. Which is just as well. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing and all that sort of stuff is best left alone, anyway.

However, we can have fun in the mailing and Bill has drafted a letter which

we will post to the Reverend William Wray tomorrow. I don't know whether we shall receive a reply or a visit from the police, but in any case I shall print Bill's letter in Vagary and the reply, if any, from Wray.

Whether Peter Campbell is mixed up in this I don't know, but I rather doubt it. In any case, he seems to have forgotten the occult for the moment and is writing pro-Communist stuff. The Russkies certainly know where to find them don't they? All very odd as I had a letter from someone the other day who got East and West for its occult information and has asked me if it is worth going on buying it as all the last issue seemed to be was stuff with leanings towards the Communists.

But I cannot resist pointing out that William Wray obviously got his ideas from American sources.

By the way, what is the Universal Harmony Foundation?

If you would like a copy of the paper in which the article on William Wray appeared, let me know and I'll drop Thomson House a line and ask them to forward one to you.

Yours sincerely,  
Bobbie Gray

((Pete Campbell is mixed up in this. I got some more stuff with a list of names. The only one I could recognize is our friend Campbell. ## I haven't the faintest idea what the UHF is (aside from Ultra-High Frequencies). ## I would like a copy of the paper. What do you want in trade?))

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Typoppress in conjunction with Curdled Corflu On Sunday Publications have presented UL #4. Thank you one and all and especially Alva Rogers and Bobbie Gray for writing letters of comment.

UL #4 from

Norm Metcalf  
Box 1262  
Tyndall AFB,  
Florida,  
USA

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