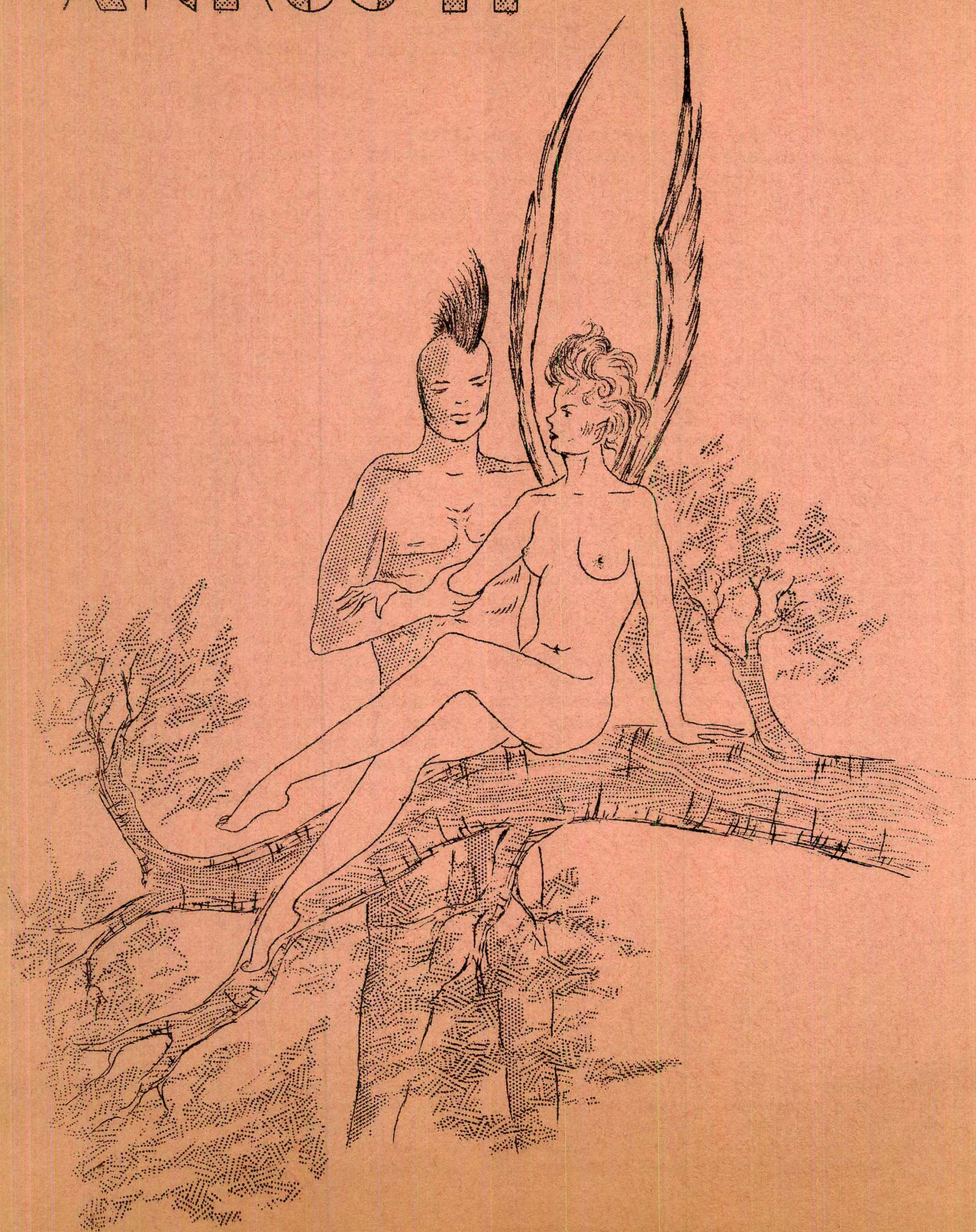


ANKUS 11



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This is ANKUS 11
from Bruce Pelz,
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FAPA 107, May 1964

IncNeb Pub 270.

I prefer to set the record straight immediately: as I said in SAPS last month, I am convinced that enough evidence exists to convict Walter Breen of child molestation, were those in possession of the evidence willing to put it forward. Therefore, I am of the opinion that Walter Breen has no place in society unless and until this aberration is corrected. I support the decision of the Pacificon II Committee in its cancellation of Walter Breen's membership, and I favor ousting Walter Breen from all other social organizations. Admittedly there are few of these in which I have a say -- SAPS, FAPA, Cult -- but in those I will have my say, and I will exercise my right to try to convince my friends that I am correct. I see no basis whatsoever for an attitude that proclaims someone unacceptable in one facet of society -- the In Person facet -- and perfectly all right in another facet, the Correspondence Club facet -- the amateur presses. I therefore cast a blackball against Walter Breen in FAPA. I also tried to convince some of my friends that I was correct in my reasons for doing so, thereby "organizing the FAPA blackball campaign" against Walter Breen. If I convinced more than one or two people to cast blackball votes, I'm surprised; other people have much more faith in my argumentative abilities than I have, I guess. I would much rather have it said that I am aiding a "several-man vendetta" against Breen, as one of our more asinine waiting-listers has suggested, than have it said that I condoned, even by inaction, child molestation. (I have as yet been unable to determine what the cause for the imaginary "vendetta" is supposed to be, but I trust that one or another of Breen's supporters will be able to invent that, too.)

I am well aware that many FAPAns' beliefs are in opposition to mine, and that they are as convinced as I of the correctness of their beliefs. Therefore, I have a ballot somewhere in the mailing on which those members can vote to make Walter Breen a member of FAPA through a Special Rule. That same ballot, however, allows me and anyone else who objects to the membership of Walter Breen, to vote against such a special rule. So if your beliefs are worth a five cent stamp, send in the ballot and be counted.

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Change of subject.

This year the Annual Science Fiction Achievement Awards (alias Hugos) are being given in six categories. (A seventh, for Best Dramatic Performance, was dropped when the nominations indicated that there was no outstanding item during the year of 1963.) One of these six categories is that of Best Science Fiction Book Publisher, and the nominees are Ace, Ballantine, Doubleday, and Pyramid. I objected to this category when it was first suggested, and I voted for No Award in the nominations, and planned to vote for No Award when the final vote comes along. But today I ran across a mimeoed sheet I got at the Discon Business Meeting, containing the proposed Constitution and By-laws for the World Science Fiction Society (Uninc.). These were passed by the Discon meeting, and, as far as I can tell, are to be followed by all con committees unless they are changed by another business meeting. The Society's functions, as de-

lineated by this document, are to deal with the Hugos and the selection of the next consite. Among the rules set forth for the Hugos, the Constitution and by-laws specify that six Hugo categories will be used, and that "The name and design of the Hugos shall be restricted to the awards listed above, and shall not be extended to any additional awards." [2.09] The categories listed are: Best Novel, Best Short Fiction, Best Dramatic Presentation, Best Professional Artist, Best Professional Magazine, and Best Amateur Magazine. In the case of a Special Award, it can be identical to the Hugos, except that its plate bears the words "Special Award." And Special Awards are not voted upon by the membership but are given by a concon decision.

Now my question is: Whence came this "Best Science Fiction Book Publisher" category? Wouldn't it have been simpler to give Ace a Special Award? I don't really object to Ace getting a Hugo, you understand, but I do object to disregarding the Constitution and By-laws that were passed at Discon.

I suppose the answer will be that the committee, since it bears the responsibility for the thing, can designate the categories it wishes. I agree; it can. But it makes for bad practice, in that the next concon may decide that there should be a Hugo for the Best Science Fiction TV network, or the Best Science Fiction Movie Studio, or something like that.

It is far too late to even suggest that the Pacificon II Committee pull out there extra category. The nominations are in, and the thing is in the works now. But may I ask if the members of the audience who are planning to bid for future cons will go by the rules and have the standard six categories?

Then-kyew.

- - - Aynitt Pikkir

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IVORY HOARD

TUCKER: Only a Califan or someone who remembers Old Smudgepot from the Solacon would be aware of the fact that the Lakeys are much more to be feared than the lackeys. ...and Rich Brown is a Califan, so maybe it wasn't a typo in BUG EYE.

JUANITA COULSON: If the first Tytan novel is written, how about getting around to revising it, and letting us see it? If you don't want to publish it, I will. And that goes for any other novels of the sort, too. More!!!

SPEER: "VFB" = Very Fine Business. QLF, OM. Just some more QRM.

MZB: I enjoyed your FAPA/APEX comparison article. I'd like to see another evaluation of the comparison in another year or two (assuming that, as of now, APEX is officially defunct.) For that matter, I'd like to see another evaluation by another bi-APAn, to compare it with yours. Perhaps TEW might oblige -- or Lichtman?

Re sword-names, swords, and so forth. It has always bemused me that writers of fantasy worlds invariably write of swordsmen and tend to ignore other types of weaponeers. When I write, I prefer an axe-man as a protagonist -- there are all sorts of ways one can use a double-pointed and double-bitted axe (what I tend to call a Loki-axe) in a fight. Someone ought to bring in a pike-man one of these times, or even a good quarterstaff-wielder.

HANSEN: If no one has yet written you about the Postal Diplomacy games, John Boardman (592 16th St, Brooklyn NY 11218) is the one to write if you want to join in, or even to get the bulletins of present games. The game itself is available from F.A.O. Schwartz in New York, if you can't get it in Denver. It's a fascinating pastime.

Orate from a soapbox all you want, Chuck; I maintain that, as you say, history should be unbiased. And when a historian blatantly declares that he intends to write biasedly, I regret exceedingly all and any time and effort spent in support of that historian's project. Especially when said historian has carped mightily at previous historians for their bias. I've never liked the idea of "Do as I say, not as I do," preferring the motto of "Practice what you preach."

WARNER: So much for mnemonics in phone dialing. We just got a new phone number, and it has two "1"s and a "0" to fool with. Utterly impossible to get anything useful from....not in English, anyway.

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The Flying Tower

There are times when I think some malevolent force is following me around the city and infesting whatever dwelling I inhabit. It started with the big two-storey house that served as a Slan Shack for a number of us from October 1960 to September 1961 -- the Fan Hilton. Less than a year in the place, and they tore it down. Of course, there were a number of inhabitants, so perhaps one of them -- Harness, Ernie Wheatley, the Trimbles, Don Simpson, Jane Gallion -- might have been responsible.

But it continued with the apartment into which I moved in October 1961, the Tudor Apartments, generally known as The Empire among the fans. I stayed there for about 19 months, and within a month after I moved, a fire hit the place and knocked out about 35% of it. It was a large apartment house, so I would probably have had to stay about five or six years to build up enough destructive force to total the thing. And I think the tenancy of Harness and Owen Hannifen during the latter months may have retarded the force somewhat -- it retarded enough else.

From the Empire I moved into a duplex in West Los Angeles -- the Tower. It was a rather run-down place, and its primary problems were some roaches, a few mice, and a harpy-type landlady who lived in the other part of the duplex. I was there for less than six months, and Ted Johnstone, who had moved in with me during the summer of 1963, kept it for another month after I moved out. Within two months after he moved out, the place had been leveled together with the buildings on either side of it. A gas station will be erected there soon. Admittedly the place was ramshackle to begin with, but I shouldn't think 5+ months of residence would be enough to do that much damage. I, like Mr. Larkin, boggle.

From Tower I to Tower II was a short trip. The latter was a small unfurnished house in Santa Monica, and I was there for about three months when the owners decided to tear it down and make the area into a parking lot. (The eviction notice, received the day before I got married, ordered me/us out by the 1st of March, but we stalled until 1 May. The owner's agent came to the door just as Dian and I were setting out to pick up my parents, who had flown in from Tampa. We proclaimed it one of the wierdest wedding presents we received.)

We are now in Tower III, a large apartment in Santa Monica. It's a fairly new place, probably less than five years old, but it has only 10 apartments in the building. I wonder how long.....

I suppose I should explain the "Tower" name. Next time, perhaps.