

# FIENDETTA

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edition

Feb 56

FAPA 74

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whole #13

v4n1

## THE DEMON'S DUEL

### FIENDETTA JOINS THE AIR FORCE

Yes. As of October 19, 1955, yed isa stanch member of the Gentlemen's branch of the armed services, namely the Air Force.

As far as FAPA is concerned, this will mean very little. Fta will continue as before, except that it will no longer have cover and bacover—partly because I am in the AF, which actually has little to do with it, and partly because I cannot any longer obtain that cheap green interior paper I used to use, which means if I used covers now they would have to be on 24lb. paper—and I would have to settle on one particular interior color rather quickly. So I am going to mess around with different 20lb. colors for the next few issues till I decide which will look best as an interior color. On top of that, I don't have a suitable cover illo. As a matter of fact, I have hardly any artwork left at all in my files. Hint.

No nudes, please. Not that I am a prude. It's just that I like to show non-fan friends my magazine and I don't want to get a Reputation.

But back to the USAF. I am going to leave next week for Sheppard AFB for a ten-week stay in techschool. After that, where I go I dunno. But it is a cinch I will have more time after I get out of Sheppard to publish in than I will have had up to that time. My mlg address will remain where it is.

But vodka does TOO taste strong.

### THE MIRACULOUS STONE

Jehovah viewed the shut door with great satisfaction. "I'm tired of all these critters coming to me with their petty problems," he thought. "I'm going to have to reorganize this place. Why can't—"

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At this point he was interrupted by a knock on that door. "Come in," he said resignedly. "Oh, Jesus, what do YOU want?"

"Well, it's about Earth."

"Earth?"

"Yes, you know...that little green place out near Sirius."

"Oh yes."

"Well, they have a problem. Usually these things are handled lower down—it's just a question several of their philosophers have been asking—"

"PHILOSOPHERS? Do they have philosophers there? Why in My name don't they stop that squabbling they're always doing, then...they ARE the ones that are always squabbling, aren't they?"

"Yes. Peculiar place. They don't do anything but fuss, and yet they've asked a question here that even Solomon can't answer."

"Huh? What is it?"

"Well," Jesus shuffled through some papers he had in his hand, "it's this: they know you're omnipotent, you know, so they want to know, can you create a stone too heavy for you to lift?"

"Now what do you mean coming to me with such a stupid question? Of COURSE I can create a stone I can't—I mean, no, of course I can't—uh, come back tomorrow at the same time. I'm busy now."

Jesus left.

"Well now," said Jehovah to himself, "the simplest way to answer this question is to try and create a stone which I can't lift. Then, if I do, then I can, and if I don't, I can't. Nothing could be simpler." He sat down on his throne and concentrated deeply.

Slowly, very slowly, a haziness formed above His head. Gradually, it took shape—a glowing, coruscating boulder of immense size. It was a most miraculous stone, glowing pure white. Then, almost as if he were afraid, Jehovah looked up. He fell to his knees and bowed his head,

And worshipped his God.

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Tyger, Tyger, burning bright...  
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CRYPTOGRAPHER'S CORNER      Decode and tell who wrote it and where it first appeared:

t0pp03h5e wjr yp059t9h5e Ot 6uh twj6we69f 6wph p9oh 60 6u9jo 6uw6 6uh7 w5h  
r9tt45h j6, 6uw6 6uh7 5h-5h4h j6 e0kh6u9jy jh3 Oj 6uh twfh Ot 6uh 4w56u; k86wj6e h05j  
396u wj 9j6lpp9yh jfh wjr w ehjeh Ot tw5ehh9jy w--5h f9w690j i8e6 w h96 u9yuh5 6uwj  
6uh j05k. 6uh7 p9oh 60 hlp9hgh 6uw6 6uh95 f08j6h5-w56 uwe jhgh5 hlr05h 4d9e6hr,  
6uw6 6uh7 uwgh j0 -5h rhflee05e. "j0 ojh," 6uh7 ew7, "uwe hgh5 ehjh 085 g9e90je,  
r5hwhhr 085 r5hwhke. jhgh5 hlr05h uwe kwj'e h5w9j 5hwhhr 086 e0 tw5 9j60 6uh p9k96  
phee e65h6fule Ot 6uh f0ek0e wh086 u9k."

It's very easy. As a matter of fact, it couldn't hardly be easier. Try it.

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Lyons, Lyons, all lit up...  
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RELIGION--FIRST REVISION

Let us look, first, at the possible theories on the creation of the universe:

1. It was created by an eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God. I produced a chain of reasoning last issue which I believe showed that if a Being had one of these four qualities, he would have all four.

2. It just happened.

3. It was created by a higher being, but this being has none of the qualities of God mentioned in (1).

4. The Universe is eternal and has no Creator.

As for the first theory, well, it is pretty but it has its difficulties. First, let me define those four qualities. "Omniscient" means ALL-knowing. It means he knows EVERYTHING—everything that goes on, any time, anywhere, the how and why of everything everywhere; everything. It does not mean he knows merely "more" than anyone else. Likewise, "omnipotent" does not mean he is merely "more" powerful than any other being or force. It means he is ALL powerful; he can do ANYTHING. This includes suspending natural law in any manner. "Eternal" means simply existing at every point in time; likewise, omnipresent means existing in every point in space.

Now, the difficulties of this theory are present in those words. The story on page one indicates one of them. If you define "omnipotent" as "ALL powerful" you immediately run into this self-contradiction. But you cannot define it as meaning "more powerful" for then (since one power presupposes another, the lack of one quality also presupposes the lack of the others) he would not be eternal, and we would be faced with the problem, "Who created God?"

(Let me explain more clearly why if God is not all powerful, he is not eternal. If you will reread my proof last issue that one quality presupposes the other four, you will see that it hinges on the definition "ALL powerful". It does not work if you redefine it to mean "more powerful". For "all" is an absolute word, whereas "more" is relative, and variable. Now, if you redefine "more powerful" as "not omnipotent"—for they mean the same thing—and substitute it in the proof, you will see that if he is not omnipotent, he is not eternal.)

To sum up, God cannot be omnipotent because of the self-contradiction involved in the term, but if he is not omnipotent he is not eternal which brings up the question "Who created God?", which in turn effectively destroys the value of (1).

As for (2), this requires believing that something can be created out of nothing. Let me simply say that the idea is certainly unreasonable, if not impossible, and my religion has no room for anything unreasonable, as I have said before.

(3): Then who created this higher being? A still higher being? This could go on forever, until it winds up at an omnipotent, eternal being, which has already been shown to be unreasonable.

(4): This is the one I like best. And according to all available scientific evidence it is perfectly possible, too. Since the Universe is not a Being, its eternalness does not imply that it is omnipotent, and no self-contradictions are therefore involved.

I hope that clears up the questions raised about the cosmological part of my religion. Now, since there is more to religion than the origin of the Universe, I herewith append my "Religious Code". Its rudiments were in the original of this article in fta 11, but there have been some changes:

1. I believe in an immutable and knowable Natural Law.

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2. I believe the abilities and knowledge of humanity are unlimited except by natural law.

3. I believe God is a state of perfection attainable by humanity on earth.

4. I believe the sum total of reality consists of matter/energy in space time.

These four principles mean:

I do not believe in: a personal God; miracles; the Trinity; the directly-inspired truth of any writings; an absolute moral law; any kind of spiritual existence; "life after death"; heaven as a physical place, or hell as one; or Satan.

I do believe that: life and the human race was evolved as the result of natural law; that we are capable of knowing the "why" of everything in the universe; and that emotions, religious experiences, and the like, are the result of bodily processes alone.

I might add that the two basic assumptions of my philosophy are that I exist and that the Universe as it appears to me exists. I also assume that those scientific theories which seem to have solid evidence behind them are correct; this means my philosophy changes as new discoveries are made. —CW

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All Ants Are Awfully Aggravative.

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#### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE 73RD MLG

The fact that there were less people and less pages represented in this mlg than in the last mlg lowered several figures below. But, significantly or not, one figure increased. This was the average number of magazines per represented member. This increase to nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  magazines per represented member is due to the large number of single-sheeters which members with other magazines had in the mlg.

Another noteworthy thing is the phenomenal increase in mimeod magazines. This is probably due to chance.

	72ND MAILING		73RD MAILING	
Total # pages in mailing:	485		449	
Total # magazines in mlg:	43		43	
Av. # pages in each mag:	11.28		10.42	
Av. #pp. per represented member:	15.16		14.97	
Av. #pp. per member (all mem.):	7.46		6.91	
Av. #mags/represented member:	1.34		1.46	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
Represented members:	32	47.1	30	46.2
Nonstandardsize magazines:	8	18.6	8	18.6
Nonstandardsize pages:	19	16.3	45	10.0
Mimeod magazines:	33	76.7	40	93.1
Mimeod pages:	389	78.8	395	88.0
Dittod magazines:	5	11.6	3	6.9
Dittod pages:	48	10.6	48	10.7
Offset magazines:	4	9.3	0	0.0
Offset pages:	24	5.3	0	0.0
Printed magazines:	1	2.3	1	2.3
Printed pages:	24	5.3	6	1.3

Largest magazine:  
Member with most pages:  
Longest title:

ZIP (White)  
Ted White  
THE CHATAHOOSHEE, OKE-  
FENOKEE, AND OGEECHEE  
OCCASIONAL GAZETTE  
(Hoffman)

GEMZINE (Carr)  
GMCarr  
THE CHATTAHOOCHEE, OKEFE-  
NOKEE, AND OGEECHE OCCA-  
SIONAL GAZETTE COMBINED  
WITH THE WASSAW AND OSSA-  
BAW BACKWATER JOURNAL COM-  
BINED WITH FIENDETTA COMBINED  
WITH HEX COMBINED WITH STEAM  
COMBINED WITH UGH! COMBINED  
WITH ZIZ (Bulmer, Bulmer,  
Hoffman, Floyd, and Wells)  
POO (Young)

Shortest title:

ZIP (White)

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Would you object to my calling a dirty dog a lawyer?  
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#### THE HIGHEST HONOR GIVEN

The Earthmen's spaceship traveled far  
Through space, through time, its guide a star,  
Until it landed with a jar  
Upon a Martian "sea".

Seven Earthmen stayed behind,  
While seven others left to find  
Intelligent beings of like mind  
Odd-formed though they may be.

The Martians met them sad with mourning;  
For from their prophets came a warning  
That their prince would die aborning;  
And the Queen was now in labor.

With those of Earth the Martians pled  
To save the Baby from the dead,  
"It's good," the Earthmen's doctor said,  
"For Earth to help its neighbor."

The Martians promised those of Earth  
High honor if they'd prove their worth  
And save their Baby at his birth—  
The highest they could give.

The Doctor worked by feeble light,  
While a Martian sandstorm blurred his sight;  
Until at last through bitter night  
He said, "The Prince will live."

Water is dear to the Martian nation,  
And their greatest gift is the Pool Celebration.  
So in return for their Prince's salvation  
They held it for the seven.

They sank a pool into the ground;  
The Terrans then were tightly bound  
And pushed into the pool and drowned...  
The highest honor given.

# The Quait Wunkery

I have a feeling these comments are going to run longer than anything else in the way of comments I have ever done. I wonder why? Anyway, the 73d mailing is one of the best to come along in a long time. It tops, in my opinion, mlg 72 in quality tho not in quantity, unless you include 72's postmailings (which were better than the mlg itself), and mailing 72 wasn't something to laugh at. I hope this keeps up.

ESDACYOS I carry my FAPA membership card in my billfold, along with my Clevention card. / Does that thing on p 8 mean you are a SCIENCE fiction reader? Me too. I read science fiction for the speculation it causes me to, uh, speculate, and Hal Clement and Theodore Sturgeon and Arthur C Clarke and aSF in general represent the best authors of the type of stf which causes me to speculate. And, yes, it does seem to be dying. Phty, too. (Cox)

1984 What gave you the idea that the entire California bloc was leading just because Cox was leading? As it turned out, Jacobs (the only candidate for that post) and Wilson won by landslides, Cox just barely squeaked through, and Miller came in last for the four candidates of his office—losing by a landslide. It seemed to me unreasonable to vote a solid California bloc when I voted, and I didn't (I voted for two of them). A lot of other people felt the same way. Your assumption that most people would vote all for or all against the bloc irks me because it indicates a low opinion of FAPA's collective intelligence. Only stupid, lazy, or misinformed (or all three) people vote entirely for or against a bloc—or political party—without first examining each of its candidates and comparing them with their respective opponents; and when a person does that, he usually winds up splitting his ballot. I am pleased to note from the varying degrees of success the bloc candidates got that FAPAns are neither stupid, lazy, or uninformed. / You should hardly be talking about expelling Myers. (Ellik)

THE BOOK OF PTOTH Illegible. (Toth-Burbee)

SACKCLOTH AND ASHES IN THE MOUNTAINS OF INERTIA Praise be. (Hoffman)

THE RAMBLING FAP You should join the Air Force. / But "The quick red fox jumped over the lazy dog's back" doesn't contain all the letters of the alphabet. / If there is one thing that basic training in the AF did for me, it gave me a second occupation to fall back on. If I can do nothing else for a living, I can always shine shoes. / What you want is the Unitarian Church. You can't argue back to the minister there either, but you can get in a lively discussion with him (or other members) AFTER church. But the Unitarians don't completely satisfy me either; what you and I need is a kind of bull-session church service, eh? Or church services run like a philosophy class. / I have a tiny reinverting telescope but it is so weak it can't even make the planets into discs. If I lived someplace where the seeing was good I'd get me a good one. (Calkins)

EXPERIMENT Noted. (Jacobs-Burbee-Metchette)

I LIKE KTEIC! Good for you. (Hoffman)

FAPA CHRISTMAS CARD A favorable commentary on Calkins' thoughtfulness that he should be the only one to think of doing this. (Calkins)

AAA AARGH Hey, this is funny. Uh, laugh-funny, not queer-funny. (Silverberg)

THUNDERSTORM Noted. (me)

XENOBLAST This was also funny. (Grennell)

BABAL Relax. That interlineation about misspellings and mispronunciations is one of the funniest I have ever read. In fact, I think I shall make a list of all my favorite interlineations and put them in this issue. And several of yours will be included amongst them. (Boggs)

BIRDSMITH The popularity of the USSR government is enhanced considerably by the fact that the standard of living within Russia has increased somewhat in the past few years and is still increasing. The Russians are aware that the present regime is benefiting them and are not aware, through censorship, that they could be a lot better off than they are, so naturally they support Communism. I can hardly blame them, myself. / I said I almost liked the part of Norm's plan about rebating dues for activity, and I do—almost. It might work for an apa which was plagued with inactivity. But FAPA is not. / As for the Cult—it is plagued by inactivity. You say it is an extraordinarily sensible organization and it is, but it is still not working. I just resigned from it out of disgust at its members' laziness. The Cult is dying, but not because of the type of organization it is. If FAPA had the sametype members the Cult has, it would die too. / You have a habit of making mysterious statements that immediately fill me with curiosity. For instance that one on the middle of page eight. Anybody else would have named the fanzine he was talking about. And you almost did the same thing with Marshal Zhukov. There at least I had some idea of whom you were talking about before you cleared it up.

Maybe you have some inbred fear of naming a thing by its right name; like some primitive societies. Could it be that you feared way down in your subconscious that Zhukov would liquidate you if you named him by his name? And remember that time you talked at length about Rosco Wright in a letter to me without naming him by name, thus getting me thoroughly confused? Were you subconsciously afraid he would know you were talking about him if you named him by name? I wonder... / Your criticism-in-general of me on page ten is well warranted, and don't think I am aware of it. But your specific criticism—the way I handled the Perdue case—is not entirely warranted, I think. How else could I have handled it? The Constitution is very specific on the point. It says 45 days after the date the mailing is mailed. I think I did exactly what the authors of the constitution would have wanted me to do. When you consider; (1) The mailing was mailed on two separate days; (2) The constitution says nothing about such a case; and (3) the constitution says the president rules on all situations not covered by the constitution; what else could I have done except let the president rule on which was the correct mlg date and let Perdue's membership stand or fall on that point? The ruling was wacky, all right, but so were the events leading up to it. / No, I had nothing to do with letting Myers come in. As I recall it, it was pretty ridiculous. / Good issue. (McCain)

THE CHATTAHOOCHEE, OKEFENOKEE, AND OGECHEE OCCASIONAL GAZETTE That cover struck at the right time. Of late I have been seeing knighthood-in-flower movies like PRINCE VALIANT and QUENTIN DURWOOD (the latter—a semiparody—is GOOD) and such things fascinate me. / An anarchy would be better than a benevolent dictatorship if each individual had some absolutely foolproof means of protecting himself from everyone else, like carrying around invincible magnetic fields of some sort like you read about in science fiction. It would be best, too, if there was some free source of energy somewhere. That way people wouldn't have to co-operate to obtain food, for co-operation always engenders rules, and when we have rules we no longer have an anarchy. For if any person can perfectly defend himself from invasions of privacy of any kind, and can supply all his wants, what need is there for a government? (Hoffman)

KEEBIRD No no no, "hoarding" is the British word for "billboard", old chap. / How many yen in a dollar, or dollars in a yen, as the case may be? (Eney)

WHO'S WHERE IN SCIENCE FICTION Worthwhile project; keep it up. (Grennell)

KEEBIRD (Number six this time) I've never quite been able to figure out why Americans are opposed to naming anything or anyone after the deity in any of his forms. Is this another manifestation of the superstitious fear of names I was talking about under BirdSmith? Spaniards do not object to naming their children Jesus, and although they object to naming anyone "Dios" I presume it is because "Dios" is not a proper name. Why do we? / DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON was beautiful. (Eney)

HORIZONS The proposed amendment was in poor form. And that reminds me, the constitution as amended by that amendment has not been published yet. / Just think, if Greek paint had survived the centuries instead of wearing off the statues, the Renaissance sculptors would have painted their statues and today we would not be irritated by all the statues in city parks honoring their heroes in dead white. Instead, our parks would be colorful—and the pigeons would have a little variety. / Justifying margins on a typer whose spacing varies according to letter size: I trust you are referring to the IBM. Well, the answer is that the spacing is not infinitely variable. All the letters are spaced in units of the letter "i". "e" is two units, "m" is three units, etc. And there are two space bars—a two-unit one and a three-unit one. Ordinarily you use the two-unit one, but when you are dummyping and you have three units of space left over at the end of the line (for instance), then when you retype the line you make three of the spaces between words three-unit ones instead of two-unit ones. More complicated than on an ordinary typer, but then the result looks better. / Delay in successive traffic-light changes is no evidence that the speed of electrons through the wire is slow, Harry. That delay could have several other explanations to account for it. / I kept looking for identical headlines the whole time I was in San Antonio (which has competing papers). Now I know why I didn't find any. As a matter of fact, the two papers very rarely agreed on which story deserved the big headline. / My mimeo is almost as primitive as yours. It does have an automatic feed, but that's all. / I wonder, are there any animals which pay attention to differences of breed as far as sex goes like we do to race? / I'm not Juffus, but my advice would be to change your name. (This re pl.). / You know what I thought would be most commented on in the last Fiendetta (the one in mlg.72)? The letter to Alfred Myers and the comments on religion. And neither of these evoked more than one comment apiece. And yet my unimportant remark about plastic tape evoked half-a-dozen. I'm willing to bet that this was because the plastic-tape remark was in the mailing comments, while the other stuff was separate. I thought I had more worthwhile stuff in that file than any previous one, but where was everyone's comment confined? To the mlg reviews, which was NOT where I thought all the worthwhile stuff was! / Just what could cause civilization to progress backward slowly as you mention? If there were any people left to drive autos around, then there would be enough people around to organize and start getting all the old comforts of civilization back. Such a situation as you describe could only occur if all the technicians—but not everyone else—were killed, and I can't imagine how an enemy would go about so selectively killing people. / Uniform time would get rid of resetting your watch so often when you travel, but not of the international date line. There's no way getting around the fact that you lose a day when you travel all the way around the world. / PUPPY LOVE is not up to Warner par. Of course you'd prefer a detailed criticism, but I'm not a critic. The reasons I don't like PUPPY LOVE may have nothing whatever to do with its writing skill, as far as I know. And not only do I not know why I don't like it, I'm not going to sit down and figure out why, so there. / Those solar batteries are, ahem, being used in Georgia. If I ever call Atlanta long distance, I may the things. (Warner)



LARK I still cannot figure out why people want to use film with their stencils, unless their typer keys have unusual tendencies to clog up—and yours don't, do they? The inconvenience attendant upon using any kind of film far outweighs the luxury of not having to clean one's keys so often. / Jan Jansen is either a very remarkable linguist, or the teaching methods used in Belgium far exceed (urp) those used here. Or both. I have never once ran across anything in his writings the slightest bit unidiomatic or awkward. / Oh come now. "Music distorted at the source cannot



be said to have any fidelity, no matter how good the reproducing equipment." It will have fidelity to the source, and that is all that can be expected from a receiver. Why should music be faithful to the composer's idea of how it should sound? Has the performer no freedom? / Thanks for the compliment. But perhaps my "improvement in writing style" is due merely to the fact that I have found something to say? I'm just as awkward and heavy-handed as ever when it comes to the English language. / All I can say is, if there is life after death, there is no death, so the whole phrase is superfluous. / I used 1260 stencils regularly for a long time, and only recently switched to 960. I prefer the latter even though they are harder to read and more expensive. I've used

1160—which are the same as 1260 except for color—but not 1360. And for a time when I first got the mimeo I used 1060, which clog up like hell but which are easier to read than any other kind. With films, oddly, they give worse results than any other kind. / I am going to try that business of using lettersize stencils and saran wrap. Sounds clever. / You missed my point about the earth going round the sun or vice versa. I was trying to show that it is all relative. The sun DOES go round the earth—relative to the earth. The earth goes round the sun, too—relative to the sun. You might protest that "relative to a fixed point, the earth goes round the sun" but I ask you, a point fixed relative to what? The sun? Then of course the earth goes round the sun. But why not fix it relative to the earth? You could say a fixed point relative to nearby stars, but then the sun and the earth are seen to be taking off hell for leather 12 mps someplace, sort of weaving around one another. Of course, the earth is doing more weaving than the sun, but that is only because it's smaller. Neither the sun nor the earth are travelling wherever they're travelling in a straight line—the only thing that is is the center of gravity between the two. (And come to think of it, that's not a straight line either, I think.) And it seems to me that for everyday life it is a Helluva lot simpler to regard the earth-sun system relative to the earth, which after all is where we are. The only people for whom it is more convenient to regard it relative to the sun are astronomers, whose calculations are made easier thereby. / It seems to me singularly stupid for an apa to charge its publishing members extra for postage. This re NAPA. (Dannier)

THE LAST FANS IN TOWN This is fascinating. I wished I lived in England. (Ashworth)

I DREAMT I CREPT IN MARBLE CRYPTS. This, on the other hand... that is this, a method for mass egoboo? Nevertheless, it is one of the finest introductory FAPAazines I have read in a long time. (Ashworth)

PHANTASY PRESS THEN & NOW was interesting. / Ghod no, the BOY'S HERALD isn't the one you're thinking of. It's just a recent thing. / OMPA is OFF-TRAIL MAGAZINE PRESS ASS'N, a British-inspired organization similar to FAPA. It is more international in membership than FAPA is—about  $\frac{1}{2}$  English,  $\frac{1}{2}$  American, and the other  $\frac{1}{4}$  scattered through six other countries, whereas FAPA is  $\frac{7}{8}$  American. / Say, PHP is older than HORIZONS, isn't it? Slightly slower schedule, but... (McPhail)

GEMZINE 4:9 You've inspired me to divide fta's history into phases. fta's 1-4 were phase one, 6,5,&7 were transition, 8-12 were phase two, and this starts phase three—the service phase. Clever? Wells does it again! / I too have investigated Catholicism, tho not as deeply as you have. Catholicism does have that chain of thinking you describe, but I find it not always logical. The trouble is, you have to have the attitude of a Catholic in order to agree with the Catholic arguments. They depend too much on analogy and common sense, both of which I wouldn't trust with a wooden nickel. None of the Catholic books that I have read have ever been able to more than, for instance, show that God's existence is reasonable. Sure it is reasonable. So is his nonexistence. Catholics (and Protestants) seem to pre-assume certain things, triumphantly produce evidence in those things' favor, and ignore everything else. / I try to make a distinction between what I would like to believe and what I can prove. Do they? / Interesting speculation there under LARK. It would require some sort of racial telepathy, but that isn't too hard to swallow. FASCINATING idea. That means that if there were only two people left in the world, they would be geniuses. Write a story! / Well, the sex organs DO produce a couple of hormones necessary. There is not a single organ in the whole body which exists for one purpose and one purpose only, and this includes the sex organs. If that is you can say they exist for a "purpose" at all—let us call it a "function". Some of these functions are unnecessary, like all those of the tonsils, but they're there. / You just got through saying about St. Thomas Aquinas what I said about Catholicism. Except that St. Thomas was more correct in his logic, if that means anything. Yes (comments on Horizons), I know what you mean. I thought up determinism all by myself and when I come to find out it was a recognized philosophy—or part of philosophy—held, among others, by Einstein, I was right proud. Oddly enough, since the last POO my faith in determinism has considerably weakened. I am giving up my own idea for someone else's, it seems. / Andy Young has had an important effect on my whole philosophy. It looks like I am going to have to rewrite that article which appeared in #11 on account of him. Be looking for it—it will answer the questions and arguments you brought up about it in this GEMZINE. / That portion of your editorial beginning with "Peopple are stupid" and ending with "...no loss in efficiency as far as I'm concerned," is beautiful! I might quibble with one or two points, but I won't. I'll simply say that that—and the whole editorial, to a lesser degree—was one of the most worthwhile things in the mlg. For once I agree with you almost wholeheartedly! / I don't think the antisegregation legislation was Communist-inspired. Not any more than the graduated income tax was. It is true it came at a bad time, just when we were making great progress toward the goal, but what else could the justices and the lawmakers do? Besides, since the Decision, the terrrioty of school seggration has been sharply reduced—only the hardcore southern states practice it now. The border states are getting/have gotten rid of it. Cracks are being made in the Deep Southern facade—the Atlanta golf course, for instahce. The Decision stirred up a lot of resentment and opposition, it's true, but nevertheless progress is faster since it was handed down. The people of Georgia (for instance) are no more violently opposed to segregation than they were before; they're just making it known now, that's all. / (Re next page) Segregation by IQ would be the logical answer there. / But Bloch obviously chose the Gettysburg Address because of its almost exaggerated dignity—and "any other carefully written prose" would NOT have done as well. The contrast would have been less had he used something else. / Just why should "revering" the G. A. cause you to object to its use as a vehicle for lampooning anyhow? / Points about TAFT are telling. (GHCarr)

BALLOT WITH GEMZINE Noted. (Carr)

POO I rule that this is POO #3. Considering some of the Things whose editors have glorified with a separate number all their own, the first two POOs certainly deserve a number all their own! Satisfied? / If you worked at this only "half serious"ly I'd love to see something you worked at seriously. Even your minor efforts are more interesting than many FAPAns' major efforts. / ABDick correction fluid smells of banana oil, too. Could it be that banana oil, or some extract thereof, is an ingredient in 1160 stencils (and 1060K stencils) and oblitterine? / Well sure matter is all the same age. I should have said matter/energy, come to think of it. Are you still disturbed when I say "Matter/energy is all the same age"? / Your speculation about the universe being a toy for some "minor godling" strangely resemble, without being identical with, G M Carr's speculations about it being a cosmic chess game. But both are merely speculations. There's no way to know, dammit. / Max Born says, "This view /of determinism and the law of causation/ ...is equivalent to the assertion that events happen indeed in a strictly causal way, but that we do not know the initial state exactly. In this sense the law of causation is therefore empty; physics is in the nature of the case indeterminate, and therefore the affair of statistics." But did any determinist ever say that it was possible to know the "initial state" of any chain of events exactly? Was determinism ever more than a mere theory which its advocates realized could never be put into practice? Is not Born merely asserting that (in one view of the matter) we cannot know the initial state exactly? In other words, he is shifting from "theoretically possible" to a flat "impossible", which I don't mind a bit. The law of causation still holds whether we know the initial state or not. Of course, there is the other alternative he mentions, that is, that the law of causation does NOT hold, but he obviously believes that whichever viewpoint is held, you still cannot apply the theory of determinism in actual practice. So what difference does it make which viewpoint you hold, since the only difference is in your peace of mind? That sounds like a ridiculous reason to hold one viewpoint rather than the other, but it is what I gather from your quote. Which viewpoint do you hold? / Pardon the outburst. It is frustrating to find that it makes no difference in the end whether one of your pet theories (the law of causation) is right or wrong—that as far as we are concerned the end result is the same. (And, I might add, as far as quantum mechanics is concerned). / You astronomers are awful absent-minded. I hear you lost one of Jupiter's moons ten-fifteen years ago and just now found it! / See article on religion elsewhere in this issue—I hope. It will incorporate much of the info you gave me. As I said elsewhere, you have had tremendous influence on my philosophy. / "Many biologists today seem to think that life was more a chemical inevitability than an accident." Yes. Did you follow the controversy along those lines in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN a year or so ago? But whether biologists think it was an accident or an inevitability makes no difference to my philosophy. However, I like to think it was an inevitability; that way it's more likely there is life on other worlds. / Why did you say SEE, TUCKER, THERE'S ANOTHER ONE? / Et pourquoi est-ce fortunat d'avoir une femme qui parle francais? Und warum sehen Sie fliegenden obertassen nur in Deutsch? Warum sehen Sie sie nicht in Englisch? Sind sie nicht ein trau-blax Amerikaner? / Best POO yet. (Young)

THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF APPLIED WHORETICULTURE. No, it's WHORTICULTURE. Whoever typed the FA listings up misspelled it. / I think, all kidding aside, that the United States would be a Better Place if prostitution were made legal and was licensed, with the licensing involving instruction in hygiene. Your lampooning, Mr. Clyde, isn't as farfetched as you think. (Clyde)

LAGNIAPPE Is it a measure of maturity in a reader that he wants his characters to be real, with human failings, rather than infallible? (Blotch)

LE MOINDRE Why do you apologize for Le Moindre's consisting mostly of mlg comments? This is not to be apologized for! / The last three paragraphs are a very good statement of my own religion—or part of it. See elsewhere (again, I hope). / Oh, go ahead and run on at greater lengths about noncommercial radio. I won't yell "nationalism". / God, uh, darn it, are you Torontons suspicious of EVERYTHING that comes along? Look, I just resigned from the cult. I swear it was entirely real and in no manner a hoax! What do I have to do, send you the entire output of the Cult to convince you? (I think I will...) / I am somewhat opposed to undershirts, or vests as you probably call them. Like you say, if it is cold, wear warmer shirts. But in the AF it's pretty damn near necessary to wear undershirts. The starches blue shirts we have to wear scratch terribly if we don't. I don't like the feeling of starched anything against my skin. / Le Moindre is one of the best new FAPazines in a long time, but considering the person doing it, there is no wonder, I guess. (Raeburn, who is really two other people)

IBIDEM Heh. That cover is MARVELOUS. / Hey, that's an idea. What if Myers is fooling us all? What if he is secretly a psychologist out to find out what our reactions will be to his-type type? Hm. / What the heck is "Embrolla tafferel empanneled McCain. Sughereto mesaula romancista atrevido eidechse"? I suspect it is a hoax. Many of the words could be Spanish or Italian, but they aren't. The seventh and eighth words could be Spanish—I dunno. Most emphatically the second through fifth and the last words would NOT be Spanish. I'm inclined to lay the whole thing to a hoax. You know it's an art to construct a nonsense sentence which could be a foreign language but isn't. Most nonsense sentences I have seen could not be foreign languages. The flaw with this sentence is that the words are all too nearly the same length—a common flaw. All the words except 2,3, and 9 are what you might call Romanoid—phenetically similar to words in the Romance languages—but 2,3, and 9 are Teutonoid. Number 5 is also Japanesoid. The thing in constructing nonsense sentences which don't look like nonsense sentences is to make them all-the-same-oid and to vary the word lengths. I cite a Graecoid sentence which once appeared in fta, to the consternation of many: "Xornas-falani e sprekhnenen avan Rhodos nun?" There I pulled one trick which you did in yours too—put a real word in it. You put "McCain", I put "Rhodos". This makes the sentence much more puzzling and also heightens the reader's (or should I say victim's) interest in what it means. / My face will not be red if your sentence turns out to be in a real language. Even if it is, it STILL is not a good nonsense sentence—it's not believable enough. So if it turns out to be real, it will merely prove that ald saw about truth being stranger than fiction. (Lyons)

WRAITH Huh, I didn't have to hunt through the pile for this when it came time to review it. It was right on top. / "You can't work too hard if you want to stay active in FAPA" is true in BOTH senses. / That Rudolph the Red knows Rain, Dear, thing was printed in our local paper the other day. (Ballard)

GROTESQUE Good. (Martin)

CONTOUR I wrote Q&A without consulting anyone else. Maybe I should have; then I wouldn't've cheated you out of an article. Sorry. / My ten greatest fan nominees: Tucker, Ackerman, Koskowitz, Bloch, Speer, rank by themselves at the top. Other five: Willis, Laney, Bollheim, Barbee, and Rosenblum. I judge them by their effect on and services rendered to fandom. How did you? / I wonder how fta would look on newsprint? / Yes, the AF language school is in Monterey, but I am not going there. Seems you have to have good vision to go there, and I don't. Don't ask me why. I'm bitter, very bitter. / What does "self-executed" in "A self-executed one-shot in pictures?" mean? I can't figure it out. / I must try a Nuclear Fizz sometime. / Contour, as always, very interesting. ...Say, I just thought, maybe that sentence in IBIDEM was in Islandic. Who else besides me and Pavlat remembers Islandia? (Pavlat)

FAPA BOOZE There ain't no Malay Federated States anymore. It's merely Malaya now. / Your review of SF Theatre, or er, I dunno which, was to the point. I saw one yesterday wherein a marathon was brought to life after being frozen for a few million years. The plot didn't merely revolve around the point of a marathon being brought to life after a million years, that was the plot. They took a half hour up saying a marathon was brought to life after a million years, and then died. And they had a lousy marathon. It was an elephant with a few hairs pasted to his face and long curly tusks added. They explained away the absence of body hairs by saying they were frozen off (but in that case why weren't the hairs of the REAL marathon they found in Siberia a few decades back frozen off?) and his small-for-a-marathon size by saying he was a mere baby. I wonder if baby marathons had long curly tusks? / Well, it's a little late to jump at GM's bait now. After all, what can I say except that Kaiser Wilhelm said that God was on HIS side in WWI and you have already said that? (Alreet, you tell ME what the proper punctuation for that sentence should be.) You stole us baitbiters' thunder. (Tucker)

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY COSWALZINE! FA has this title copied wrong, too. / What does that quatrain at the top of the first page mean? / The Book of Mormon isn't any more fantasy than the ible is, bhoy. / The evidence is fairly conclusive that the Gospels were written within a century after the death of Christ. Even most "higher-critics" will tell you that. I dunno where Carr got the idea they were written centuries later. But that doesn't mean they are accurate. Look at all the arguments historians have less than a century later about Lincoln, Lee, and their ilk. And they were famous people, with all sorts of things being written about them while they were alive. I doubt if anything were written about Christ while he was alive. / That's right, blame everything on unions. You can't blame long, gaudy, overpowered cars on management, can you? Why does everyone lambast the unions every time something goes wrong? Bah. I'm still bitter. (Coslet)

PHLOTSAM. A SENSE OF HISTORY was to the point. Very to the point, or have I used that phrase before? Anyway, it was good. So the poetry. / There were 50 members to begin with, and it remained that way a long time. It was increased to 65 in the first two or three years of the Atomic Age, I think. / I have heard many northerners say "youse". But more often, "you-ens". But "youse" does NOT rime with "booze"—the vowel is neutral. / Pronounce, or try to pronounce, "theirs" with the vowel in "say". It comes out with the vowel more like that in "bet". But anyway, then you will be distinguishing "their" from "lair". Can you distinguish "lary" from "merry" from "marry" like I in my Southern splendour do? / When I said "physically impossible" "physical" referred to their beliefs, not their bodies. / Hey, I just discovered I didn't get HEATHEN in mlg 72. It wasn't listed on the FA and I just now noticed all the reviews it got. Hm. / I think we should all comment on any magazines the waiting-listers produce for FAPA, and send them our magazines in return, as a reward for having to wait so long. / That Alonzo poem and its fellow were marvelous. (Economou)

GRUE Don't blame you a bit for cutting circulation down. / Le Hoffman? Oh come now, or were you referring to Stu? / It appears that of all the magazines you were "faunching for" (page 30) only Poo actually appeared. I faunch for all those mags too. / I like your "flaccidly" whatever-it-was style. (Grennell)

THE CHATTANOOCHEE, OKEFENOCHEE, & OGEECHEE OCCASIONAL GAZETTE COMBINED WITH THE WASSAW AND OSSABAW BACKWATER JOURNAL COMBINED WITH FIENDETIA COMBINED WITH HEX COMBINED WITH STEAM COMBINED WITH UGH! COMBINED WITH ZIZ Noted. (Bulmers, Hoffman, Floyd, and me)

MEDITATING IN THE STICK You have my support, including the idea of reducing the membership to 50. (Hoffman)

FIENDETTA Noted. (me)

FAFHED The Craters of the Moon is one of the highest examples there is of fan-fiction. It shows that fan fiction can be literature, and not merely empty silliness. / I bet that Grossman illo on page twelve is a reprint. To fta, I think, goes credit for printing the last original Grbssman illo. / Young's review was not at all "dull and technical". As a matter of fact, both your reviewers (Young and Emery) wrote remarkably good reviews, for a fanzine. I might add the fmz reviews were more intelligent than most of their ilk, too. As a matter of fact, this is a good magazine. What else can I say? (Cox-Ellik)

SAMBO! Oh come now. How else can you define a criminal except by referring to those who get caught? You COULD say a criminal is a person who commits an illegal act, or even that a criminal is a person whose personality is such that he is LIKELY to commit an illegal act (as you seem to wish), but neither definition is practical. You can do something about only those that get caught—whether you want to punish or rehabilitate them. A person can't help it if his personality graph shows a tendency to lose selfcontrol and commit crime. A lot of people like that may never commit any crime for lack of opportunity; how can you punish them or start tinkering with their personalities in good conscience before they prove their denger to society? No; the only criminals who can rightfully be punished or rehabilitated (depending on your opinion of which is the best thing to do for them) are those who have actually committed crimes. / Most atheists are anti-church rather than anti-the-idea-of-God. If a person refuses to allow his emotional antichurch prejudice to overcome him, he becomes agnostic instead of atheistic. / Moskowitz' article was only mildly interesting except for the part about him and Einstein. (Martinez)

POLL CARD Noted. Oh, one thing. Your new method of grading is worse than the old method. By the old method, three third-place votes could cancel one first-place vote. By the new method, TWO third-place votes can cancel one first-place vote. Besides, what's wrong with three thirdplace votes canceling a first-place vote? (Cox)

AMENDMENT SPECIAL ELECTION CARD I didn't know anyone actually proposed raising the membership to 75. The Constitution Committee certainly didn't. I demand to know the names of the four people who signed a copy of the amendment to raise the membership to 75. (officialdom)

THE FANTASY AMATEUR Quite a number of XF's this time. / By the way, wasn't it remarkable the number of people who commented on the one XF last time, saying he would probably be the only member to leave? Well, oddly enough, only one member did leave—but it was someone else! (occicialdom) (huh?)

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for nostalgic purposes...

MILDER, MUCH MILDER...THEY SILPED THEIR NUCLEAR FIZZ IN THE INSURGENT MANNER...MAN IS NOT BRED BY LIVING ALONE...EAT AT OMAR'S...THE SICK BROWN FOX SLUMPED OVER THE LAZY DOG'S BACK...A FEATHER...GONNA USE A GUN OR A KNIFE?...WHOM DAT?...WHO SAVED COURTNEYS BOAT?...IT WAS A PREGNANT SILENCE WHICH ABORTED...I--JUST FORGOT WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY...DEAD, GENTLEMEN, OF AN INTELLECTUAL BANKRUPTCY...I HATE MISPELLINGS AND MISPRONOUNCIATIONS...LET'S PUT THE UNIVERSE ASIDE FOR A MOMENT...I'M STILL MODEST, DAMMIT...TAPTATPATTAPTATPATTATTAPRATTARATTA TAP TAP WHAPPITY DATDATDATDAT DING!...I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ACKERMAN COULD HIT SO HARD...HE SPLIT AN ATOM AND LET GO OF ONE OF THE PIECES...YOU'RE A PEOPLE!...NO, DRANK THREE, MCCAINIUS...YNGVI IS A LOUSE...HERALD OF 7TH FANDOM