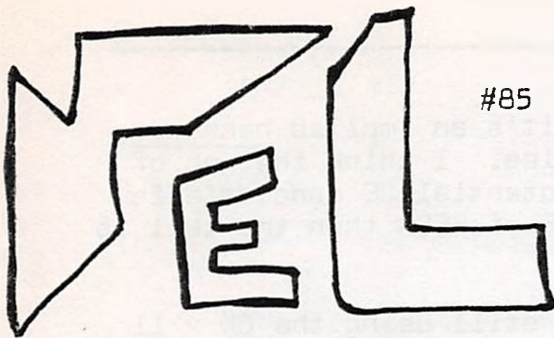




MEL



#85

This is the drag-arse issue of Mel. It comes to you, if at all, at the last minute. Times have been tough, fans. Anyway, this is none other than Melikaphkhaz #85, directed your way by Lon Atkins, 6250 Buckingham #109, Culver City, CA 90230. (213)-641-5996. A Zugzwang Publication in the month of November 1981.

** Don Markstein and Gi-Gi Dane just left. They were over here for XGiving and managed to drop in this evening. A good, though relatively short time was had. Some domestic crisis has intervened, Bruce being left in charge of the kids, and my guests had to depart. This gives me an hour or so extra to shore up my SFPA offering.

First, I should say that Don played and beat Reversi, my Othello program. Second, I should note that this was because of an as-yet unisolated bug. Not that Don isn't a strong player. He is. But he was cooked in the given position until Reversi malfunctioned unexpectedly and failed to make a move that is, affirmed yes, in its template library. I could blame the hardware, but I suspect its my bug. Reconstruction of the fundamental position shows that it was a colossal blunder.

Reversi is programmed to output a message at the conclusion of the game. This time it selected: "Your skill is exceeded only by your luck." I told Don that this demonstrated that Reversi was very perceptive. I invited Don to one more game against this simple little Business BASIC program. Don declined. He was, however, kind enough to identify Reversi as the best computer Othello game he'd yet encountered. Now I gotta get this zine on the road so I can go find that #"!*\$% bug. Not that I'm upset. No, sir! I may have the damned computer junked, but that's just the pros...

** On other fronts, I hear tell that it is now imperative that the OE own a mimeo. How curious, I thought, and tried to locate this stipulation in our Constitution. No luck. It weren't there. So where did this so-called requirement come from? I asked and reaped mumbles in reply. It's just that way... People say...

Well, I'm a people and that ain't what I say. Somehow this little episode triggered an anger in me, an anger I am going to share. I know the cry "I offer mimeo service" has been a campaign cry in more apas than one. That's well and fine. It's nice; even useful. It's not what makes a good OE.

If SFPA wished it could engage a printing service to handle those chores. Members would send in masters; the service would print them and mail out the bundles. How efficient. We wouldn't even need an OE once the publishing needs of the membership had been satisfied. Or would we...?

I don't think SFPA has reached the point where it's an implied necessary service of the OE to provide publishing facilities. I think the job of the OE is to administer the apa well. When a potential OE candidate is told that he "has to have a mimeo" to run for OE of SFPA then the tail is wagging the dog.

** Some brief comments on the box scores. I'm still using the 8½ x 11 yardstick for measuring creditable pages, so the half-size zines last mailing, not having featured reduced print, counted in the Box Scores at half the page count Guy gave in the OO. Likewise, con material attributable to a specific member counts in its first appearance, but not in its subsequent appearances. Just a reminder.

** Yesterday the Bear beat Auburn to capture his 315th coaching victory: a new college football record. The game was uneven, marred by many Alabama errors, Auburn errors too. Emotions were running high, straining players and coaches, yet the game was cleanly played. On the viewing side of the TV set I was strained too. Fortunately, my brother and I traded phone calls during the course of the game, helping us maintain perspective. With our help, Alabama finally got it together, coming from a three-point deficit, and scored a pair of touchdowns on nice drives.

The Bear was humble with his victory and his record, handing credit to all his players, former players, coaches, forcoaches and their families, etc. He'd finally gotten there, after a long year of hassles, and it was clear he wanted to get away from the press and be with his players. For the Bear this season, that impending record had been more a liability than an asset. Now he was beyond it. And even though his next victory will be a new record, as will the one after that, there'll be no pressure: for Amos Alonzo Stagg has been left behind and from now on the Bear will be breaking his own record, not some other coach's.

The Los Angeles Times gave the Bear the headline story in the Sports section. Quite a concession from the Times, which has steadfastly put down the Bear over the years. The write-up wasn't large. Perhaps a quarter the size USC gets for routing Cal, for example. But it was more press than Bear has previously gotten in the Times.

I'm sure this situation will be set right by every newspaper in Alabama, where the defeat of #1 Pitt may even become second page news. As Sports Illustrated pointed out, there icons of the Bear in every household in Alabama, not to mention bumper stickers touting the record, etc. I miss being there.

** I'll wrap this natter up by saying that I couldn't resist running up to work this morning to see if I could isolate that bug in Reversi that Don turned up. Sure enough, by setting up the position again I was able to re-create the problem. And, Don, it did turn out to have implications wider than just that one circumstance.

Weil, there's now one fewer bug. (Which leaves uncounted hosts, I'm sure.) I would like to invite Don to play that second game, Stven his fourth, or any of you others your first. As Dick and Nicki Lynch plan to be here next Friday, perhaps Reversi will get another shot at a SFPAn or two.

Down to the wire now. The smallest Mel in over two years should go in the mail tomorrow.

Take care!
-Lon

MAILING COMMENTS



THE SOUTHERNER (GHLIII) * Glad to see that you're running again. Hope you lean back and enjoy the harvest. After two years of hard work you've got SFPA into a high-energy position.... but I'm not sure we can afford much more hi-energy. So, enjoy the good life -- and keep getting the mailings out on time!

A great anniversary mailing. Guy expressed some mild chagrin that this one wasn't marked by any "production numbers" or historical monuments, but we did all that in the One Hundredth Mailing. I enjoyed the Anniversary mlg as "regular" SFPA just twice as big and twice as good. Kinda amazing that on SFPA's 20th year it can produce a 913 page mailing full of superb material and have it called typical.

CLASH OF THE TAUNTAUNS (Wells) * Remarks of both hilarity and sagacity on the "tough deadline" policy. Trust to an ace minacker like George Wells to have penetrating insight on this burning issue. Your secret, it would seem, is avoidance of cliffhanging. Having myself slipped into acquaintance with this evil habit of late, I'd better heed your words. This business of trying to save one's membership by the deadline is indeed a bit of too much...

LOUIE (Hutchinson) * You're experiencing some of the frustrations of a seniority system. It's frustrating, when one is on the wrong side. I was once, twice, earlier in my career. Irritated me, but somehow I decided to dig in and work harder. That profitted me. I had some time to reflect on the pros and cons of seniority systems, and I had some time to grow.

What you describe is an analog to my situation. Lots of people wanted the job but none could handle it. I tend to favor (modified) seniority systems so long as there is a review mechanism in place. The review you describe is implicit -- the route itself will wear down those unsuited. But this is because (I presume) no route pays more or carries more "prestige"

than any other. If some did, then you'd find the seniority system particularly irritating without another kind of performance review -- externally applied. (I don't know enough about the Postal Service in specific to know whether or not you have this, but it is conspicuously absent in most administrative bureaucracies and union shops).

My experience with seniority came over a plum job. I was the junior, though I had the best "track record". But the job was tough, so it wasn't too long before I got my shot at it. I think this kind of review is necessary with any appointment system, but it is doubly required when appointment methods deal only with some arbitrary index, such as seniority.

CLASH OF THE TAUNTAUNS (Wells) * Haven't we met here before? ## Since you offer a lead-in, whatever happened to Elliot Shorter? He was based in NYC last time I heard. Tied in with the Fanoclasts of T.E.W.

ICEPICK (Me) * I talked a bit in last Mel about what a crazy up-set prone season this has been. I hereby disclaim any responsibility for the disasters. Today is 10/25/81. Alabama faces the toughest part of its schedule and I have a bet to prepare... Excuse me for a moment.

ATLANTA FLYERS * I'll be there!

HEAT RESISTANT (Bob Barger) * I was really sorry to see that you had dropped. As you fulfilled page count requirements, I presume the drop was motivated by other pressures. Hope you bounce back, and that we see you again next mlg as an "Instant" member (just add vodka...) If your resignation has to do with fan feuds, as would seem indicated by various comments in this zine and last, then it strikes me as senseless. For SFPA to lose a solid member over something that has nothing to do with SFPA is sad, if it's true. Come on back, Bob. Your writing style in this zine is highly up-tight, but I remember the relaxed-if-frantic Barger that captivated me with his ability to express ideas with a balanced humor, biting the hand-which-wrote while smiling, and a directed intelligence that wasn't about to get caught in the shit-little detail level. So, find the cool again and remember that we still love ya.

B'HAMACON II BOOKLET (Gilpatrick) * I hardly did this superb DSC justice in my report. Extending my congratulations and expressions of delight to the Con Com and the B'hamsters to due. Two cons in Birmingham I've been to; to dynamite gatherings!

THE DSC AND ME (Carlberg) * I'm glad that you recorded the event: "pulling a Montgomery". After playing with Larry in the past I wasn't ready to recognize this remarkable happening for what it was. To me, it was routine. If I could count the times I've watched Larry sweat as he tried to wiggle off the hook, as three other players were desperately trying to take just one lousy trick, I'd be rich at a dime a throw. However, watching you young twerps discover the Truths of Elder Fandom's Legends is a kick all in itself.

And who is this "X" that plays chess? I recall you asking me if I'd brought a chess set when we met that Friday, but there was never a word thereafter. ### Best conreport in the mlg. But did I expect less? Hellno. It could only have been better if you'd been in the

Finals. But then you've been dodging the finals in every Hearts Tourney I've played in. I know how well you play, for honest, so I presume it's merely that the Ghods of Alpha Centuri are unsettled....

SOUTHPAW AWARDS (Carlberg) * Beautiful cover by Charlie Williams. A great idea, well executed, and I congratulate my fellow winners for their accolades. I think this is a good idea and hope it continues. Your "one time winner" idea is very pertinent. The field is rich in talent. Propagation of recognition is the right idea.

SIYU (Paris-Barger) * Third shift stuff is heavy on a relationship. My brother's wife is a nurse. When they moved to Decatur she took a third shift. I've visited them a couple of times since and can see the distortions in their routines introduced by working hours differing. I remember the strain when I was working early AM hours to get computer time during the first days of my programming career. Hope Bob hits a regular shift soon, though I recall that stress can be a binding force too.

Gee, I've not observed much reticence on your part. I thought you blended well with the resident crazies in SFPA (only 30-odd of us...). Seriously, Sandy, I've enjoyed your SFPA contributions. This zine centers more on standard apazine format, which demonstrates adaptive ability. Settles you into an easily-commentable structure. As for not getting response from various members of the apa, don't worry. Neither do I. Try as I may, I don't think I've ever done a SFPazine which received comments from everybody. It can be bothersome to be ignored, but it's not really ignoring -- it's lack of time or energy in the comment pattern. The comments will come in time. Hang in there!

Well, no, I've never had to face the situation of aborting an embryo from my body. But I've had my tough situations, some of them "male-oriented" and some of them just human. Not to pick on you, but why is it that females seem to discount male abilities (or opportunities) to face tough situations? In my short 39 years of life (or reasonable facsimilie) I've faced a small handful of genuinely brutal decisions, a few of them life-or-death. All of these were situations with consequences. I can't be atypical, so why this smug jass about abortion decisions? Ignoring solipsist arguments of morality, is there any less import in considering the death of an adult being as opposed to the termination of a foetus? I mean the heaviness, not the nature, of the decision. All this is purely theoretical, of course. But can you really say that no male has faced the impact, nor experienced the dynamics, of such a decision?

Good reviews. I really enjoyed ZORRO, though I saw it on an airplane and was half asleep. Funky farce in classic nostalgic parody lines! Also should say I enjoyed your zine a lot. Glad you ran a photo of Bob on the cover.

I WANNA HOLD YOUR TYPEWRITER (Donna B.) * Gee, this is the second consecutive zine from a pretty lady in which MC's to me were lead-off. I'm going to get a swelled cranium... if this keeps up. Glad to hear that you got a cat and are now about to discover the frustrations and joys of a cat-owner, the first of which is discovering that you don't own the cat: it owns you. (Or so it thinks.) Cats are quite remarkable for making such unfounded assumptions. The curious thing is that they seem to be remarkably right. I'm sure that Eric is even now exhibiting these very traits...

THE NEW PORT NEWS (Brooks) * You seem to have captured the essence of George with your cover photo. ### Perhaps the phone surveyor I wrote about wasn't really expected the "blind dial" to be any different from the others on the list. Perhaps she was just tired of dialing number after number from an endless roll. That was the impression I got, that she was weary of the unending rote.

So, out of curiosity, just how do you go about testing the tiles? One question I have is how you simulate the low pressures of extremely high altitudes? Seems to me that the bonding characteristics of the adhesives vary with pressure, and with exposure to pressure. How do you compensate?

APATOONS (Markstein) * Very nice.

FRONTLINE WOMBAT (Hutchinson) * People who pay dues in advance expect to offset inflation, but the organization should be putting its money into short-term interest-bearing investments, such as T-bills. I'm sure Guy is investing SFPA's money in interest-bearing investments. Just think of the enormous sums SFPA's "spare change" could command on today's money market...

Given two pages per mailing, the Pages Owed Scores will measure "twice minac" quite well. But about the erratic contributor, like Bob Jennings used to be, who alternates zippo with 30+ page mlg's? The Pages Owed Scores measures consistency, not activity level.

Just as a short notice on the French, I've found that once you get effectively out of the Paris area the French are more cooperative. There is a true cultural reserve, yes, but there's no innate hostility. (There's an innate air of superiority...) But, once that cultural barrier is pierced, the French are magnificent indeed.

The lettering guide you were asking about is A.B. Dick "Cartoon" No. 1496 (and 1496-L). Or it was in 1966 when I bought it (them). This is one of my favorites. ### I feel the same as you -- that the "President" list should be supplemented with the poll winner list. Indeed, I may undertake this myself. I've got the records.

We had a pretty good rundown on the "unemployment insurance" theory of alimony last mlg, but your comments are all well taken. Jackie dealt with some of your observations in her letter. Others are quite valid. The fundamental problem seems to be one of opportunity equity; that is to say that as women are indeed typically underpaid (for same work values), the divorce system attempts to redress the balance by perpetrating further inequity. Maybe if society solves the first-mentioned problem the second solution will follow. I dunno. I do know, from experience, that in human society a distortion to correct a distortion doesn't work -- it just creates even more problems. But people always seem to reach for "simple" solutions: i.e., "simple-minded" ones. Always easier to treat a symptom than a cause.

FLAMBEAU DE LA PETIT ROCHE (Caruthers) * Your print shop charges for collating? That's wild, as most machines in use at such shops do collating automatically. The shop I use charges nothing for collating. (I don't know about stapling; I've never asked.) ### OK, I'll try another McBain. ### I didn't smoke when I wore contacts, but maybe smoke had something to do with my difficulties...

A HIGHER ELEVATION (Montgomery) * Good seeing you again after all these years. I see you did go ahead and run the "rock and roll" record title index. Glad to see it. Not surprisingly, few of these titles are familiar to me. ### Joe Moudry was the one talking about doing an Al Andrews memorial. I'm also signed up to write a piece. Only trouble is that Joe's determination is real, but Joe's procrastination is Legendary... ## Good zine; a pleasure to see so much of history in it. Keep 'em coming!

CLASH... (Wells) * Great pix of Misty!

STANNOUS MERCENARY (Hyde) * Well, there were other things about the Spectrum article that bothered me. Like the amount of energy the sun pours into our atmosphere non-stop. Unless I miss my calculations, ole Sol does more in the way of energy than the atomic blasts which Spectrum mentions. ### By the way, welcome to Texas.

Under Mitterand I have no idea what the French would do in the event of war. I do know that a percentage (large, I think) of the population realizes how close Russian troops are. The memory of German occupation is not dead, and it is the Russians who gain the fear reaped thereby. I think the Russians have well-demonstrated how they handle occupation...

I've looked at Pascal. Built a product for Pertec based on it (Blaiser). We used the Western Digital Microengine. After all the development hoopla (including announcements), we folded the project for several reasons, all independently valid. Pascal is an excellent language, though it lacks the extensions necessary to do systems development. ADA is billed as having these, but I've not studied ADA, nor will I in the near future.

DODGING LIONS AND WASTING TIME (McGovern) * Tough Dylan line there; maybe I'll get it when I paint my masterpiece. In the meanwhile, try "I don't want to straight-face you..." ### Enjoyed "Dungeons and SFPAns", especially that part about (i Think) me. ### My cut of Dylan doing "walls of Redwing" is on a bootleg called "While the Establishment Burns". I think I've got it on another also, but as I recall the qual is bad.

Hmm. I should leave the abortion scene alone, but there's a last line I'd like to explore. That is, the question of "life" versus "humanity". The line of attack goes something like this: if you are concerned with "life" alone, then you cannot condone the destruction of any life as a sin. Yet you must destroy life in order to live, eat. Several lines of defense are possible here, but employment of any of them introduces the element of "degree". By so defending, you admit that "degree" has a judgemental value. I'll not bother to detail things, as the lines can get exhausting.

Suffice it say that if you will allow logic to be applied (under the rules of formal symbolic logic) then you must concede "degree". If you repudiate the logical mechanism then you have exposed your position as based on emotion alone and the discussion ends there. However, if we then proceed I can use the power of "degree in concept" to argue that once the position of "sacred life" has been abandoned you stand on the argument of "sacred humanity". So what is "human"? An impossible definition. What is survival? What is a closed system? Meaningful issues.... ## Good zine.

GHLIII FOR OE (GHLIIIOE) * You got my vote. (When do I get my \$5?)

HARD KNOX (DH-J) * Fine first issue. Some neat writing within. Perhaps I'm dense, but I miss the message in the pupils of the bacover. I can think of two surface interpretations, but the message in the pupils fits neither. Is there a perversion out there Dennis Dolbear didn't tell me about???????

THE SPHERE (Markstein) * Somebody told me that Gatorade ain't nearly so effective as it claims, how about that. They said that studies show that absorption (assimilation) by the body of those mineral substances is complicated by the environment. The radical environment; that is, the chemical radicals attached to the heavier ions. The source I quote also claimed that Perrier-and-lime cured gout and that Scotch-and-soda cured heartache, so.....

UTGARD (Hulan) * This mlg the Devil struck me. Alas. ### I notice that the Rams just became the first team in memory to lose two in a season (regular...hahaha) to New Orleans. One thing Bum has done is instill a pride 'n' drive. What will Lionel do next year?

GOODY GUMDROP BOY (Hickman) * Never heard of Buckeye. Is it as good as Moosehead? ### The cover of Mel last was not from an old magazine, but from a place mat at The Magic Castle, an Ellay club for professional magicians. They let the public in sideways. Lots of members give away guest cards, and one of the members happens to work for me.

LIVING A DREAM (Schwarzin) * Gorgeous deep blue paper, but hard to read from. Point on splitting finances. Decide on all the common exspenses. Pay them from an account into which go equal (or proportionate negotiated) amounts. Set the fee high enough to ensure a small surplus. That avoids Embarrassing Dunning Notices. On majoy joint purchases keep the bill of sale and annotate as jointly owned. If a cash surplus develops, scale down contributions to the kitty (never raid it). Exceptions (e.g., phone calls) should be handled as payments.

SPIRITUS (Lillian) * Nice hand-coloring. Nice claw-coloring too. ### I'll accept that lying account of your lucky win (though it was accompanied by proper play of the cards you were dealt -- though with those cards even Reinhardt couldn't have avoiding winning) if only because you grant me a skimpy paragraph describing my powerful victory in the REAL Hearts competition -- the Tourney. Hank was telling me that if I got to DSC early next year you could be persuaded, now that we'll had your invincibility at money Hearts demonstrated -- to come down and sit in an all-night buck-a-point frolic. Is he right?

I guess that seeing Fowles as an optimist is hard for me to do. Just as it's tough for me to envision Hemingway as a pessimist. I tend to see both writers as dealing with values more transcendental than "optimism" or pessimism". And by the way, SUN does not end with a fishing sequence. Read it again. It ends with the taxi sequence I quoted, hpoing to show the heroic thread of Hemingway's resolutions. The writer was after solutions to hard problems -- coping. I don't understand your commentary. Why is awareness of death a "darkness" of soul?

I recently read an article about how American culture tries to avoid the thought of death. Curious, when it is so inevitable. Hemingway lived close to death. Lying broken-bodied in an Italian ditch perhaps he came to terms.

Try reading DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON. Hemingway saw it as inevitable, but what mattered to him was the handling. A matter of style it was. "One thing well done can make---" The very novel you cite as an "escape" from "darkness" features the death of the protagonist (FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS). Is it the fact that Robert Jordan's cause is one you identify with that allows you to bless this particular Hemingway book? In the end, the cause has nothing to do with it; the style is everything.

The crux is loss, and in the crux there is only style to differentiate us. Hemingway's is a direct and personal way of writing: he shows us the loss and the style directly. Fowles is a more cerebral writer in approach: he narrates. Nevertheless, Fowles writes about loss also. If you want to experience Fowles in a direct facing of style and impending death, read "The Ebony Tower" from the collection of the same name. Read a bit farther and try "Poor Koko". Tell me if the throes of spirit-death are less "dark" than those of body. Read ACROSS THE RIVER AND INTO THE TREES and tell me about poise in decline. Finally, tell me how one faces terminal cancer with style?

I really got turned on for this one, breaking my cursory pattern this mlg. Hope I've not offended with my "sermon" approach. ### Fine zine. Deserves more commentary, but I'm having a hard time getting through this mlg and would like to respond to as many zines as possible.

TALISMAN (Biggers) * Your comment on fan Goh's not being able to play in DSC Hearts tournaments must be based on observations of Reinhardt's form in the most recent episode. I agree; I wouldn't call it playing Hearts either. Next year, however, I will be glad to demonstrate how the cards should be played... ### Good sketchy conrep. We have enough difference in our perceptions to make reading interesting. For one thing, I felt that Pat Gibbs did a good job as TD. The table talk rule was aimed only at what has fondly become known as "New Orleans Hearts", where much more information passes than whether Hearts have been broken. Such crap is one of Hank's pet peeves, unless he's changed mightily. I know it's one of mine. The tournament ought to be a lot of fun, yes, but it doesn't need to violate the rules of single-competitor fair play to do it. Banter has always been part of a good Hearts game, but such banter doesn't include disclosure. When you open up table talk about the cards you open the door to skating. Pat's rule was intended to stop card talk. Not banter. I know you think the banter was to be closed off, but not so.

THIN ICE (Verheiden) * Sitting here feeling mildly guilty about this flimsy Mel, I read your comments on "apas as a hobby" and was puzzled. You say that realizing apazines were just a hobby inspired you to do more. For me, the reaction is to know that I can more easily relax my posture with a hobby than I can with other aspects of my life. It isn't easy, by any means, but this time around SFFA has suffered because of externals and I don't think I'd change any decisions given a second chance. Hobbies are hobbies, and when they're rolling fat it's a time for glory, but lean times come to. The heart of your comment, though (I think), is that one can relax with hobby deadlines, and that freedom from pressure is an aid to

creation, output, in the hobby field. I agree and disagree. When it was the pressure itself creating blockage, then relaxation produces output. But when sheer force of circumstance is the enemy, then relaxation -- I mean acceptance of "hobby" status -- produces the opposite. The latter is my problem. I look at my PPM target -- get above 29 pages this mlg -- and I cringe. Expect me to finish ten pages or so short. And not willingly.

With due respect, I disagree with your remarks about "goals". Sure, it's easy to complicate the stated goals by talking about gradations. I don't think such gradations apply in the mind of one driven. Let me speak as a lazy slob whose "dream" ideas seem to be just that. I seem to be more motivated by momentary pleasures than by some mystic goal. (So maybe I can't really comment.) But I would observe that those who want to get someplace get there. One way or another. One degree or another. Take Robert Ringer, who hyped his book at great cost (he started wealthy) until it hit the Best Seller List. Take our own Harlan, who wanted to be a Pro. Now he is. In a mere 75 years, will either of these writers be remembered? I doubt it. Yet they've "made it". Sometimes I wonder if these fellows have more pleasure out of their great "achievement" than do I in my failures. Not my failures -- I denigrate myself. My local achievements. My pleasures in friendship. These are of great value to me, the barometer I understand is people. It is my flaw that I never saluted the greater measurements of success: money and fame. But I'm having fun. ### KILLJOY is frightening.

LOKI (Hulan) * A superb genzine. The single weakness I perceived, and I suppose I should mention it, is that the layout suffers. You squeezed too hard on space. Adding two or four pages of net content would have opened up space for some interesting format ideas. How this nets out against content is subjective: I thought the content won. ### Your nattering about yr fannish history is super reading. Good writing; excellent balance. I think your personal natter is material of interest par excellence. The selection of facts combines with personal observations to make interesting reading.

A fine zine, which I'll not comment enough on. Time pressesM Y'know. Bev Clark's article was good reading. Locke's was the usual ho-hum hilarity, clarity and crispness. (If I didn't know how good THE PRINCESS BRIDE is, I'd say he could write well about anything...) I do know to who he is refering in those opening paragraphs, though.....

STAR*JAZZER (Hammer Johnson) * Good luck on your quest!

BREAKFAST AT MILLIWAYS (N. Lunch) * Agreed on yr ct-Stven concerning Elvis. I think of him as one of the best showmen ever on the American enteetainment scene. (Or the world scene, for that matter.) ### Your comments on the joys of splicing stencils brings back a rush of fond memories. There was so much enkoymment, perverse though it might have been, in working with stencils. Doing artwork with my host of stylii and shading plates was great. I find it hard to get such effects with xerox. Too bad my mimeo is on the fritz.

Yes, that's pretty much what I was trying to say about religion and science. There's no inherent conflict between them at all. The conflicts come when that area of "individual faith" is broached and people start to impose their views on others, either by force or social pressure. Growing up in the Bible Belt, I saw far too much of that latter to be able to think of organized religion as non-coersive.

THE REVENGE OF MINAC (D. Lynch) * Stopping to think about it, likely it is a good idea to relocate the DSC temporally away from the Worldcon. When I was living in the South, the DSC wasn't the production it is now, so a trip to the DSC was inexpensive and the Worldcon was feasible. Relative costs were a lot lower then too -- gasoline for example. Travelling fans found it easier to handle the two cons in succession. Nowadays things are different. I chose the DSC over the Worldcon this year. Too costly to do both.

FLAP is doing well, if it has become a bit smaller. The writing quality remains very high. Being stapled all together, it feels more like a genzine than an apa to me when I pick it up. But the reading is prime apa. ### Lots of SFPAns seem to be advising me to try McBain again. ## Faan fiction probably takes the shortest time per page because it flows out. I write it only when I'm in the mood, when some idea has taken hold, and once that happens the words are just there. Usually, when I stall on a story I just set it aside until things are perking again. Can't do this so easily with MC's or other deadline oriented material. And trip reports run at the natter rate, or maybe a bit longer. ### Oh, I hold nothing negative again Irvin either. I was using the word in more the Fancy II sense, not so pejorative a sense as you seem to attach. I didn't mean to connote malice. ### Excellent trip report. Muchly enjoyed.

BUILD A BETTER HUGO (Batty) * I don't understand, Wardo. First you say that a Hearts Tourney should have a minimum number of rounds. You even recommend not announcing it. Then you argument against seeding deferments on the basis that it violates fair play. Then you cite the fact that I've won every time I've played to support the view that the seeded players would (presumably) win anyway. Seems like you're arguing against yourself.

CATNIP (Dawn) * Wasn't it a mouse that escaped and hid in the electric organ? Or did a hamster do it too?

TRUE DEFECTIVE (Burke/Clark) * Hilarious!

TOTAL ASSAULT CANTINA (Burke) * Big beautiful zine! We'll have to make a point to chat more next DSC. The swirl of the con was such that I hardly ever saw you again. And, yes, I pleased to meet you too. ### Autos are deadly weapons alrite. This morning I was nearly broadsided by a cop. I stopped dead at a four-way, then started into the intersection. Four lanes all directions; a big intersection. Suddenly the cop car came aroaring over the crest of the hill about 80 yards away. Doing mayve 60. I hit the brakes. He hit his sirien. We avoided closer acquaintance, but it left me nervous the rest of the day, driving in the rain in this city where nobody knows how to drive in the rain cause there's not much of it. ### You mean they charge to see Vulcan these days?? ### Great adaptation of the Doonesbury cartoon.

THE GOLDEN LAMPREY (Clark) * Another big beautiful zine! I'm in awe of that characterure of me done by Charlie Williams. That guy does amazing stuff. When will we talk him into joining SFPA? ### Likewise, the idea of the Atkins Memorial Wine Glass pleases me. That was a fun outing to Pasquales. As with Rusty, I hope to talk with you at greater length next year in Atlanta.

Oh, yes, the abortion reactions are unconcerned with the consequences of unwanted children, born into a world that can't support them. It's all a good example of what happens when that religious faith pushes out of its bounds of individual belief and starts to try to dictate morality (that should have been put in quotes) to the rest of us. However, the confusion of this sort of activity with economic principles is unfortunate. I don't see any plot in "Reaganomics". I see instead that if the trend of government support of more and more people via "transfer" payments and non-productive jobs isn't reversed, either by cutbacks or by incredibly dramatic increases in true productivity in the private sector, that we'll get inflation, spiraling taxes and eventual collapse. I don't agree with the profile of Reagan's cuts, but I do believe they are desperately necessary.

Pertinent comments on the "SFPA entry" topic. It's a two-way street; members should be prepared to do some reaching out, and I think most are. ### Yes, try Fowles. I suggest THE MAGUS as a good place to start, crossing into the fantasy genre as it does. ### Enjoyed the Mouser material.

FINGERTIP REALITY (Moudry) * Interesting stuff on Arkham House.

FRIENDS IN SPACE (Pickersgill) * I've done no formal study in philosophy in the sense of formal courses, but I've read a lot and thought a lot. Particularly helpful jaunts were my attempt to understand what Zen is about (I failed, but came away wiser), discovering Eric Berne (especially WHAT DO YOU SAY AFTER YOU SAY HELLO), becoming a friend with the I CHING (as much a sage as it is an oracle, or perhaps more so), and reading, in specific, two great books: ZEN AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE and GODEL, ESCHER AND BACH. I think any answers lie in context.

Agreed, fandom is too big now, it's out of control. To me the essence of fandom lies in communication and group spirit, and there's a size when both become fragmented. We may have a lot of areas of fandom with good communication and high group spirit, but they are islands. ## Good zine, filled with excellent MC's. Keep 'em coming.

PXR 5 (Sperhawk) * Over the years my ideas of what constitutes "refining" my writing have changed. When I did a second draft some years back it was to clean up the grammar and spelling, and to tighten the verbal descriptions or dialog. Now, I'm very likely to change structure. Perhaps this comes from a growing awareness that the animal is more than its pelt. The bone structure dictates form. What this means to commercial aspirations I don't know. I know that I've just not gotten started on any real project in this direction. I share your frustrations. ## Good zine.

SYN (Raub) * I spent some time in Columbus (helping out my company's installation with Sears). Some good restaurants in that city. ### A floppy diskette apa is another idea that might work. Exchanging digital data ought to have great potential. Programs, etc. Standardization of format might be a bit of a problem, but the right conversion utilities shouldn't be tough to generate. With the number of home computers being sold soaring, I wonder if such an apa already exists? The possibility of programming a fanzine is fascinating.

Good run-down on an assortment of movies. Like me, you couldn't resist liking RAIDERS....

UNNECESSARY INTIMATE REDUNDANCIES (Phillips) * The loops on The Corkscrew are taken at such speeds that centrifugal force keeps you firmly in your seat. Plus there is the harness. It was fun. ### I can't understand why Guy didn't send a copy of your postmailing. Sounds like a mixup of some sort, for it couldn't have been intentional. That's a no-no. ### Concerning the Hearts Primer, I ran a small second printing and have a couple left. Will send a couple to you for distribution in the Atlanta area. Remind me if I don't come thru. I'm forgetful... ### Hope your spirits are buoyed up by now. Being ill and also losing a good friend is a depressing combination.

SHE'S GOT NO DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR (weber) * Sounds like you're in gloom city too. From the fine eulogies both you and Sue give for Dave Minch, I can see he was a dear friend. As for the other stuff, the political garbage, seems to be a lot of that going around in the South these days. Tends to come and go in waves. Just don't let the bastards get to you, tough as that sounds. Sic Hank on 'em.

MONKEYS AND CUCUMBERS (Morrissey) * Good comments on the "alimony" issue, though I must take exception that divorced women are turning to younger men "just as their ex-husbands are".. I can assure you, sir, that I've not turned to men at all. Young women, now. That's another story... ### EBNFH.

IF THIS LOOKS LIKE A SHORT ZINE... (Davis) * Sure is. I didn't like paying postage on the Esperanto zine and I equally dislike paying postage on the Heavy Metal poster, though it's here: thanks. Rules are hard to frame to cover these things; it's membership awareness that SFPA really has to count on. I can still get 35 copies of the local phone book. It's got my name in it, so it's SFPA-related material, right? ### Looking forward to that deluxe zine you're promising. I can count on it. Right?

CLEAR AS A CRYSTAL (Dolbear) * Alekhine's Defense is viable. There's a nice win from the Black side by Lev Albert in the recent US Championship, to grab an example. I'll admit that I prefer the Sicilian, though, as it has so much more scope. As for the French, the main line we see in the Winawer is two-edged, sacrificial, and hardly dull. You must be thinking of the Exchange variation. ### They say Moosehead is Canada's most-exported beer, and I think we can guess why that is... Errr. There's no charge here for an unlisted phone number. Is there in New Orleans? ### SEARCH THE SKY. THE SPACE MERCHANTS. GLADIATOR-AT-LAW. Yes, I can see the influence of P&K on Disch in 334. But the Pohl-Kornbluth collaborations were well-paced adventure stories as well as social commentary. Disch dispensed with that adventure.

HE WALKED AROUND THE WHEELHOUSE TWICE (Dolbear) * Well, good luck in your new slot. ### I remember Steve Stonebreaker. Tough lad. But that was years ago. Now you tell me a funny funny story about New Orleans and bad jokes. The local interest TV show on Channel 2 ran a squib on transvestite bars on a recent show. What amazed me was how female were the mannerisms of the TV's. Incredible. The argument that sexual mannerisms, like cultural behaviour, are learned, not innate, has a strong point here.

PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE (Campbell) * I've got no time to try your puzzle now, but I enjoy that type and will have a shot after deadline. ### Good reading, lots of funny bits like CROWMAGNON, but not hooks. Maybe I'm just harried by the deadline. Enjoyed.

INTUITION (Carlberg) * Atlanta really is filling up with SFPAnS, isn't it? Is it true, Stven, that you're pushing to get a ZPG ordinance enacted so that no further SFPAnS can move to Atlanta? ### Well-taken comments on Stephen King. I had a bit of trouble with his efforts to introduce colloquialism also. After I adjusted, which didn't take, true, very long, I read without irritation. He's a fine writer.

I'm not sure about having the same discussion several years ago, though I presume your comment was about art describing and influencing life. If so, then perhaps we did. You reference pornography, and I recall arguing that porno was not in itself evil. But back to description versus influence. I think that description can be influence. A physics text describes models of the local universe. It can also influence what people do. We learn from descriptions. I think we can learn from art's descriptions of life, and if we act on these learnings then art has influenced life. That our race has indeed "pyramided" knowledge is indisputable. I think most of us get wiser as we grow older. Most of us keep on learning. On the next page (ct-weber) you state: "It's perfectly reasonable to ask someone whether seeing a movie changed their opinion. Not that it necessarily had to change their opinion, but except in the case of a terminally closed mind, it might have..." Aren't you talking about what I am? The power of influence inside art's descriptions.

I've nothing against recreational drugs per se. Strangely, though, my inclination to use marijuana has dropped off to almost nothing over the past couple of years. On the other hand, I seem to be drinking a bit more. This may or may not be of significance. My feeling is that, like hobby activity, modes of relaxation ebb and crest. I prefer alcohol these days, but that in no way detracts from my democratic viewpoint that you freako, perverted, deranged and deluded drug pushers aren't free to kill yourselves in your own way. Does that establish my neutrality on the issue? ### Fine zine.

TIN SOLDIER (Rogers) * Did you move to Atlanta, too? Watch out for those druggies. ### Page 4 is missing from my zine -- blank. Was that intentional, or could you perhaps send me a replacement page or a xerox of what's missing? Thanks! ### I'm not sure I understand what you mean by the "Atkins model" for one-shots. I don't have a model. Do you mean that "Multifarious" number done by Stven and I? It was not a model; it was a one-shot. Over the years I've done one-shots of incredible variety. I even participated in one which won "Zine of the Year" in SFPAn. Do you know who the other participants were?

I don't understand your objection to the "one line" service system, Mike. It was invented to get around the fact that one service window or another "bottlenecks" from time to time, be it from clerk's incompetence or unusual request. The "one line" system means there are no lucky or unlucky lines. The queue advances as service becomes available, with equal opportunity for all. How can this system be fouled up by an incompetent clerk?

Good solid zine, as usual.

THE SFPA BOX SCORES: MAILING 103

NAME	AB	HITS	PCT	P(101)	P(102)	P(103)	TOTAL	PPM
ATKINS, L	89	89	1.000	46.	63.	104.	2572.	28.90
BIGGERS, C	44	32	.727	1.	23.	13.	352.5	8.01
BROOKS, N	81	81	1.000	6.	6.	8.	1158.5	14.30
BURKE, R	8	8	1.000	16.	2.	49.	139.5	17.44
CARLBERG, S	62	62	1.000	26.	12.	36.5	1322.5	21.33
CARUTHERS, P	36	33	.917	11.	9.	10.	186.	5.17
CELKO, J	22	15	.682	0.	11.	0.	178.	8.09
CLARK, V	10	10	1.000	2.	30.	51.	221.5	22.15
DAVIS, H	33	27	.818	1.	4.	1.	169.5	5.14
FRIERSON, M	70	66	.943	0.	4.	4.	1595.5	22.79
HAMMER-JOHNSON, D	13	12	.923	4.	20.	14.	176.	13.54
HICKMAN, L	22	12	.545	0.	4.	12.	276.	12.55
HULAN, D	81	77	.951	14.	29.	51.	2387.	29.47
HUTCHINSON, A	52	52	1.000	10.	31.	28.	1598.	30.73
HYDE, C	12	12	1.000	26.	24.	15.	227.	18.92
JENNINGS, B	42	28	.667	0.5	4.	0.	537.	12.79
LILLIAN, G	65	65	1.000	69.5	50.	71.	3202.	49.26
LYNCH, D	7	7	1.000	11.	27.	29.	105.	15.00
LYNCH, N	20	20	1.000	11.	17.	14.	319.	15.95
MARKSTEIN, D	74	74	1.000	13.	4.	30.	2299.	31.07
MORRISSEY, R	21	13	.619	4.5	0.	5.	100.	4.76
MOUDRY, J	33	33	1.000	1.	4.	3.	221.5	6.71
PARIS-BARGER, S	7	7	1.000	5.	4.	8.	75.5	10.79
PHILLIPS, S	16	10	.625	0.	5.	9.	97.	6.06
PICKERSGILL, L	14	12	.857	8.	12.	26.	103.	7.36
RAUB, M	10	7	.700	--	--	15.	68.	6.80
ROGERS, M	14	14	1.000	23.	24.	20.5	214.5	15.32
RYDER, S	21	20	.952	7.	4.	4.	137.	6.52
SCHWARZIN, L	22	19	.864	0.	13.	5.	133.5	6.07
VERHEIDEN, M	53	51	.962	26.	13.	20.	689.5	13.01
WEBER, M	37	35	.946	5.	16.5	6.	637.	17.22
WELLS, G	48	39	.813	3.	1.	7.	184.5	3.84
ATKINS, D	1	1	1.000	--	--	2.	2.	2.00
BARGER, D	3	3	1.000	6.	5.	2.	13.	4.33
BATES, D	2	2	1.000	--	1.	6.	7.	3.50
BATES, S	2	2	1.000	--	1.	6.	7.	3.50
BATTY, W	6	6	1.000	19.	6.5	10.	71.5	11.92
CAMPBELL, T	7	6	.857	0.	0.	9.	30.	4.29
COBB, J	6	6	1.000	14.5	20.5	13.	96.	16.00
COLLINS, J	1	1	1.000	--	--	1.	1.	1.00
COLLINS, N	5	5	1.000	8.	9.	7.	56.	11.20
DOLBEAR, D	19	16	.842	10.	24.	26.	255.5	13.45
FONTENAY, G	4	4	1.000	8.	3.	7.	28.	7.00
GILPATRICK, J	1	1	1.000	--	--	11.	11.	11.00
HOGUE, J	1	1	1.000	--	--	5.	5.	5.00
KOCH, I	22	22	1.000	--	--	15.	190.	8.64
LUSK, C	1	1	1.000	--	--	20.	20.	20.00
MCGOVERN, T	7	7	1.000	14.	8.	22.	95.	13.57
MONTGOMERY, L	26	24	.923	11.	15.	38.	408.	15.69
RYAN, D	8	8	1.000	10.	10.	6.	61.5	7.69
STEWART, L	8	8	1.000	12.	8.	6.	66.5	8.31

THE SFPA STATS: MAILING 103

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AT-BATS = 1139

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP HITS = 1042

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BATTING AVERAGE = .915

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP PAGES = 21682.5

AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP PPM = 19.04

SFPA TOP TEN: PAGES PER MAILING

1. 49.26 GUY LILLIAN
 2. 31.07 DON MARKSTEIN
 3. 30.73 ALAN HUTCHINSON
 4. 29.47 DAVE HULAN
 5. 28.90 LON ATKINS
 6. 22.79 MEADE FRIERSON
 7. 22.15 VERN CLARK
 8. 21.33 STVEN CARLBERG
 9. 18.92 CLINT HYDE
 10. 17.44 RUSTY BURKE
-

SFPA TOP TEN: BATTING AVERAGE (TOTAL HITS)

1. 1.000 (89) LON ATKINS
 1. 1.000 (81) NED BROOKS
 1. 1.000 (74) DON MARKSTEIN
 1. 1.000 (65) GUY LILLIAN
 1. 1.000 (62) STVEN CARLBERG
 1. 1.000 (52) ALAN HUTCHINSON
 1. 1.000 (33) JOE MOUDRY
 1. 1.000 (20) NICKI LYNCH
 1. 1.000 (14) MIKE ROGERS
 1. 1.000 (12) CLINT HYDE
 1. 1.000 (10) VERN CLARK
 1. 1.000 (8) RUSTY BURKE
 1. 1.000 (7) DICK LYNCH
 1. 1.000 (7) SANDY PARIS-BARGER
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SFPA TOP TEN: TOTAL PAGES

1. 3202. GUY LILLIAN
2. 2572. LON ATKINS
3. 2387. DAVE HULAN
4. 2299. DON MARKSTEIN
5. 1598. ALAN HUTCHINSON
6. 1595.5 MEADE FRIERSON
7. 1322.5 STVEN CARLBERG
8. 1158.5 NED BROOKS
9. 689.5 MARK VERHEIDEN
10. 637. MIKE WEBER