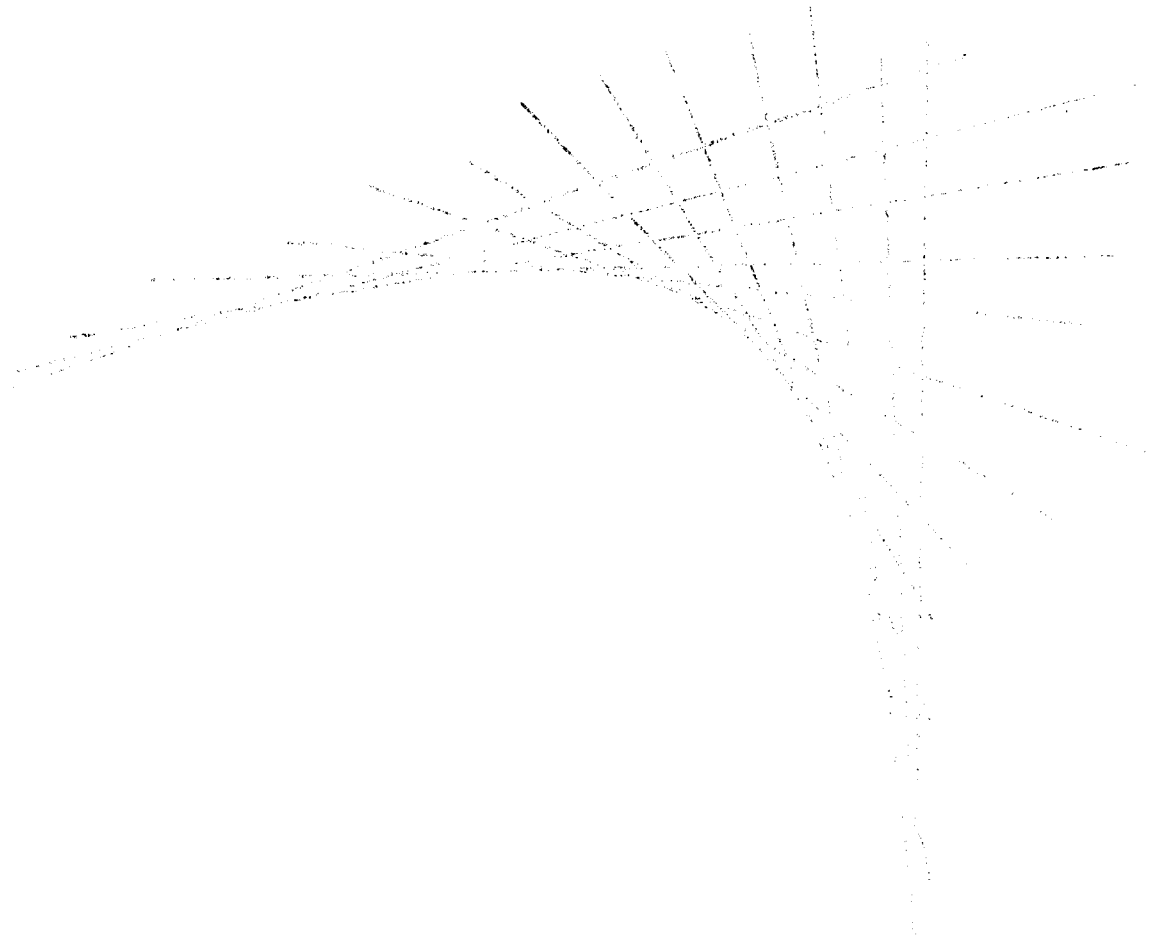


NIEKAS 10.5



Published for the second Fractional Mailing, whatever Fred Lerner has numbered it, by Felice Rolfe and Ed Meskys, Members Ordinaire of N'APA. Today being the 15th of January, 1965. Complaints may be made to Felice at 1360 Emerson; kudos should be sent to Ed, whose address I disremember. Palo Alto, Cal.

It is amazing how desperate one suddenly becomes, upon being told by one's congenial coeditor, "I haven't time for the fractional mailing this quarter; you'll have to do it all yourself."

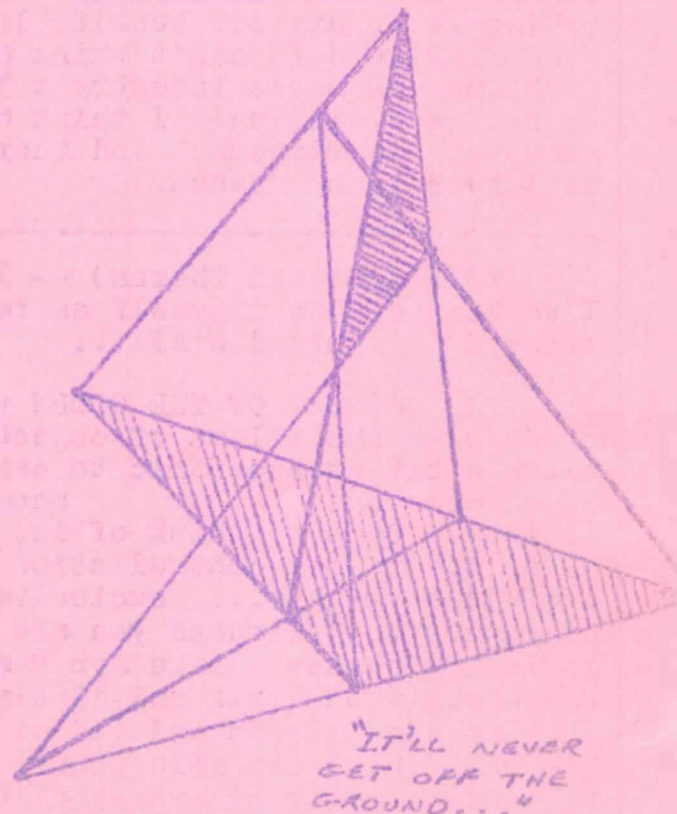
"All, Ed?" I said in panic. "All," Ed repeated.

"Artwork, too?" "Artwork, too."

Now I am no artist. I say this with some pride; it takes Moral Fibre to admit that one is no artist, when all one's friends (including the Abominably Accomplished Coeditor) can at least sketch a passable cartoon. However, it says in fine print on my diploma that I'm a mathematician. Therefore, or Q.E.D., you may observe that the cover is a line conic, specifically a parabola, from Projective Geometry (that being one of the geometries in which parallel lines meet): That the illo on this page is Desargues' Configuration again; and the one on the final page is from my early calculus days. (I've corrected the equation. The one from which I originally derived this fanciful ellipse was unfortunately the equation of a hyperbola.)

I'm sure you could be less interested. Shall we hie to the mailing comments?

ZINGARO (Mark Irwin) -- Mostly I agree with your comments about the Army. However, your assumption that IQ is equivalent to merit is not true. One of the most competent, capable, amiable people I ever knew (a Lt. in the Army, in fact) had a tested IQ of 90. On the other hand the most worthless and most unhappy man of my acquaintance was off the high end of the Stanford-Binet. ~~####~~EVERS has a point, too, although the draft is more akin to the "bond-servant" idea in that there is a token salary, and it isn't for life. It would be nice if we could abide by our ideals with regard to the services (good word!), but unfortunately there are no longer enough young men with either patriotism or adventure in their hearts to maintain a standing army. We need one. Pearl Harbor proved that; I remember hearing tales from the older Civil Air Patrol members about the CAP doing the Coast Guard's work while the Coast Guard made like



a Navy because what little Navy we had was crippled at Pearl. Oh, sure, we had plenty of volunteers right after Pearl; most of them didn't know which end of a gun to pick up. Took two years to get them in fighting shape and equip them. That's a bit too long in these times. ##So brace up, EE, and do your duty which you never would have volunteered to do, if left alone. Right? And don't jump on me; I did volunteer for the Air Force, but they seemed to think that one's sight should be good enough to distinguish between an airplane and a hangar. ##Contrary to the above paragraphs, I'm not an ardent warmonger. But neither do I blindly believe that no one will ever dare start a war. nor that the footsoldier is obsolete. ##While we're complaining, Mark, why in hell didn't you take Jodi out on the mezzanine for those photos?!

THEOREM (Al Scott, a man after my own theoretical heart) -- This is the first fanzine I've ever seen that quotes the CRC Tables! ##Termt's theorem is closely tied in with prime numbers...what a mind-croggling understatement. ##Welcome, King Samuel; good luck in preserving your nonfan status. it can be done, but the urge to publish is usually a bad sign. ##Enjoyed your chemical (!) compounds, but didn't wade through your proof. ##All told, a nice first issue.

TETRAGRAMMATON (James Wright) -- If you see no use for all this crud, so what are you doing adding to it? Learning not to write crud, that's what.

A STATEMENT OF POSTURE (Harlan Ellison) -- This publication is going to annoy a lot of people. It is a loud and irritating holler of indignation, and besides it's a Fannish Tradition (that again) to be annoyed by Harlan Ellison. He seems to promote it. But in this case, Harlan is Right. He does good work; he's managed to inject some half-way decent sf into Hollywood, which in itself ought to get him a Hugo as Best Inertia-Overcomer or something; and there has certainly been enough good sf-fantasy drama this year to warrant inclusion of the category on the ballots. If Harlan's plea annoys you because he's making it on his own behalf, look at it this way; he is one of the very few sf writers (I can't think of any other at the moment) who is actively fighting the movie industry's lethargy and anti-intellectualism -- and by God he's winning! I think he ought to get his chance at the award, whatever his reasons. And there's nothing wrong with a good, strong, healthy selfish reason.

SPINA (Creath Thorne) -- I agree with Clay about ~~33~~ dead wood. I've been deadwood myself as far as the club proper is concerned, ever since I joined N'APA...

THE JOURNAL OF THE GODEN (?) JUG (Hank Stine) -- One could hardly argue with the axioms of objectivism as you state them, although it seems a bit ethnocentric to assume that capitalism, a system evolved by our own age, should be the foundation of the perfect society. Come to think of it, that particular principle contains the seeds of its own contradiction in the statement "...supremacy of individual rights.....exclusive function of government is the protection of rights". ##Perhaps you are unsatisfied with your story for the following reason. Like Ayn Rand, you are dividing all persons into two sharply separate and distinct types. Anyone with an eye to see can look at his friends and (if he has more than one) it will be clear to him that there are more than two classes of people. If you are trying to prove a point by oversimplification of your characters, fine. But



if you were expecting the story to be a mirror of reality, naturally you'll be disappointed with it. ##There seems to be a good deal of contradiction in Ayn Rand's work. Take the heroine of THE FOUNTAINHEAD, for example. It has never been clear to me why it is any more honest to hate the man you're sleeping with, than to sleep with a man you hate. All right, I know she didn't really hate him, but she made herself believe she did, which is even more dishonest. ##There is a great deal of traditional holdover in Miss Rand's descriptions of women's emotions, and of man-woman relationships. It can probably be traced to her European background, but all the same it is astonishing to see such views in a woman writer with her convictions. (Of course, if her strong women acted as simply and directly as her strong men, she'd have the devil of a time finding plots.) ##The theme of Miss Rand's books is indeed a welcome change from the glorification of mediocrity that has been around the last few years (tho I notice that this doctrine hasn't done much more than make the mediocre happy with his lot -- it hasn't held back the talented very much. There is a place for mediocrity, y'know -- ask any professional woman who has tried to get moderately intelligent care for her children; ask any brilliant mathematician who has had to teach freshman algebra.) ##The SF Profile article in Amazing for February 1965 will introduce you to S. Fowler Wright (that was a genuine type too), a man of Ayn Rand's convictions who wrote some fine sf. The article is disapproving in tone, but you can get quite a reading list out of it.

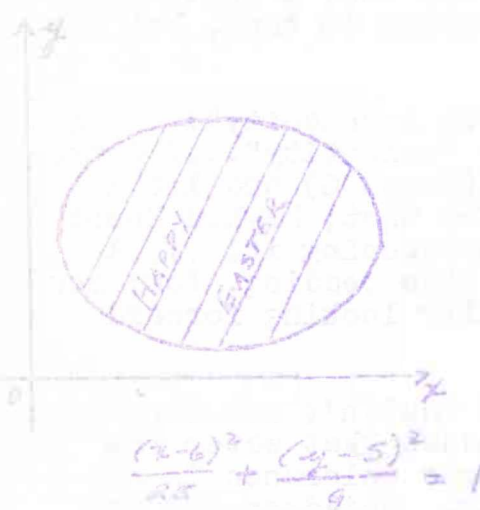
SHALMIRANE (Tom Gilbert) -- "Introduction to a Nonenity"? Nonsense. You're obviously not a nonenity. Oops, it says "nonentity"...I dunno about that...come on up for the next G&S party (March 6) and let me see. Incidentally, all Angelenos are invited for that; Mayhem House has a new kitchen and I'm looking forward to christening it. ## A weekly N'APA? Kreet forbid! ## This was very nice reading, Tom; you have a pleasant and literate style, and I'm really looking forward to reading SHAL next time.

RASTY (Duncan McFarland) -- The reason you couldn't put the water that had evaporated back in the corflu, was because that water was ether. ##Children's having to be brainwashed into tolerance is not a matter of "something wrong with society", Duncan. Children are not born tolerant; it's a learned attitude. The local brats have been teasing my daughter unmercifully simply because two of her teeth have been pulled, instead of coming out naturally. Even a mathematician couldn't split that hair. "s a matter of fact, Children have to learn all of the civilized habits, like not eating with your fingers, or not klonking your buddy because you want his wagon. (Hooray for inhibitions, sez I.) ##Joe suggests that the coin shortage may be due to the proliferation of vending machines in the last few years. The SF mint has been reopened, by the way.

INFERNAL AVENUES (John Boston) -- Davy is out in paperback now. ##"Staid, respectable scientific types"? Not the ones I know! ##This also was an enjoyable, readable zine. Thanks, John.

GEMZINE (GMCarr) -- Phil, you might be interested in George Stewart's LAN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. 'Scuse me, Gem, but you did lead off with Phil's letter. ##Who says a simple food-gathering culture is a paradise? Not for me, thank you. ##Electricians have the "rules" forced on them by the facts of the physical world, namely that if they don't use the proper amount of insulation (which they've found out by experiment), they'll get zapped into oblivion. So far the

atholic decisions about contraception have been contrary to the physical fact that this planet has finite surface area. Not to mention the psychological fact that having unwanted kids is bad enough for the mother, but it's sheer hell for the kids. I feel that parents should have only as many children as they can love, that being more important than material advantages -- provided the family isn't starving. For some people, no kids would be too many. That's not a condemnation of such people (naturally not, since I'm one of them), it's just a fact. I also think that when parents have a really serious personality conflict with a child, they should be encouraged by society to arrange a better home environment for it. It would be a big step towards the world's sanity. ##As you may have noticed, this "sanctity of the family" idea really bugs me. ##Public schools are under local control now, and look what a lousy job they do. This is not a refutation of your argument, however, because under Federal control they would almost surely do worse. Some think a national standard would be an advantage, but I personally feel that lots of local standards ranging from fair to bad are better than a single standard that is deplorable. ##Don't gaffate, Gem; who would we have to argue with?



BUFFERING SOL'NS (Judi Sephton) -- How would I feel if I were Ruby, Judi? Probably that I'd done the right thing -- another reason for the same world to put us away. When's the next time he'll decide somebody needs killing? ##I live in an intellectual group (our non-fan friends too), and none of us have been burned at the stake yet. Probably the secret is not to be snotty about it (Hello, North Beach, Greenwich Village). ##Psychiatry is a long way from being able to make a certain cure. There are many instances of second offenders among supposedly cured psychopaths, and it's kind of rough on the second victim -- for whom I have much more sympathy than for the psychopath. ##Your statement that a lawyer would rather be dead than disbarred contradicts your disapproval of capital punishment -- what is imprisonment but disbarral from society?

ALCHER (Ron Hicks) -- D'Artagnan's Memoirs can probably be found in a large city or university library. It is in 3 volumes, and was compiled, perhaps written, by Courtilz de Sandras. The old boy was real, all right; he is mentioned in the Letters of Madame de Sévigné in connection with Fouquet's trial. The Memoirs are heavy reading.

These have been thoughts off the top of a head that feels as if its top is coming off. In addition to the above, I greatly enjoyed FORWARD and EXCALIBUR (especially the essay on Odd John); and to a lesser extent, each other zine which isn't mentioned.

The top of the mornin' to ye  
*John*