

RACHE
15



The following article was written three years ago, in a fairly serioustone. The time was ripe for the scheme to work, but apathy on the part of the schemers prevented its accomplishment. It is published here as a Document of Fannish Attitudes, and the publisher disclaims all responsibility for the actions of future fans in whom the seed of revolt may be sown by these notes...BEP.

Some Notes towards the Voluntary Decline and Fall of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, 1941-1961, R.I.P.

I. Art Hayes has said, in the summer 60 issue of GUANO, that the old guard of reliable officers of the N3F wishes to retire. Honey Wood, Stan Woolston, Kaymar, Holland, Janie Lamb and Hayes himself are spoken for in this fanzine by Hayes -- they would like, for one reason or another, to let the yoke of office fall on younger shoulders. Hayes, speaking directly to Pelz in mailing comments, suggests Pelz, Ellik, and other newer Neffers as possible candidates for the Directorate, Presidency, and Treasury this fall. This leaves the way open to a complete shifting of power in the N3F and relieves us of any necessity of illegal action or power politics. The demise of the N3F can be arranged to seem natural and proper, if a bit hurried.

Therefore a slate of younger Neffers will stand for election in October. Potential candidates for the Presidency are Bjo Trimble, Al (Calif) Lewis, FM Busby, and Jack Harness. Note that they are by no means "younger" Neffers, but all are newer Neffers; Harness is a possibility only because he is an older fan than any of the above and is probably non-interested enough in Neff to be easily talked into this project.

For Directors we will pose Pelz, Ellik, Al Lewis (both), BJohn Trimble, FM Busby, and as many others who might work towards this end as can be collected. At least ten of "our men" should stand to cinch a majority in the Directorate.

As the Treasurer is appointed by the Directorate, Janie Lamb's replacement can be considered later as part of the committee-head appointments.

II. Many members of N'APA are strongly dissatisfied with it; several of them like belonging to it and do not like belonging to the N3F; at least a few, significantly a vociferous few, are opposed to retaining any contact with the parent organization. These few are men to get into our action.

But the first action of the new Directorate will be to cast off N'APA from the parent organization. N'APA can take care of itself, and undoubtedly will flourish as well without N3F as it has with it. Certainly attitude can be shifted, as entrance requirements are stiffened and members become publishers first, not Neffers first.

III. Among Hayes's statements as outlined in I. above were statements that various committee heads would like to resign. The most active organized committee in Neff is the Welcommittee, and by replacing Hayes with one of our men we can bring about the cessation of welcome activities very easily.

First, the new head of the Welcommittee notifies each of the three chains that someone is taking over as the head of their particular chain. This can be three people (our men) or one person (our man again), because there is probably no way for us to get caught. For the sake of prevention of cross-checking by chain members, it would perhaps be best to name three people -- they can be Directors or the President or whatever, because we are going to seem like an almighty hyper-active group; for a while, anyway.

Then the current list of new members is divided up amongst the welcomers; this list can be taken from the first page or two of the Los Angeles Central Telephone Directory if necessary, but the addresses should definitely be either out of date or those of non-fans. When the Welcommittee has sent one or two letters out and received no answers, they will communicate frantically with the heads of their chains, who will also not answer letters. Then they will write to Hayes's successor, who will answer their letters comfortingly but vaguely, and then forget about it.

Shortly as many welcomers as possible will be notified that the committee is being trimmed and that due to a lack of recruiting they will no longer be needed and they can shuttle their activities into N'APA or Round Robins or something. The Welcommittee should be dead within three months.

IV. The presence of several dozen dollars in the Neff Treasury presents an ethical problem in that it will be impossible -- not to mention a lot of work were it possible -- to return the money to its rightful owners.

Therefore, an amendment will be proposed in the first TNFF of our regime, this amendment (or bylaw or special rule or whatever) written to allow the Treasurer (our man, remember) to dispose of such surplus funds from the Treasury as he may see fit by making a lump donation in the N3F's name to TAFF, FANCYC III, the Society to Make Sex a Four Letter Word, or whatever. This amendment will be railroaded through, and we will form, from among our ranks, a machine to power it through. Upon its passing, the Treasurer will pay off such debts as the

organization may have outstanding, and send the rest to the appointed institution; it should make friends for us.

A final report will be presented to the membership, and to general fandom, if necessary, by the officers. It would be better, however, to keep it all quiet and drop out of sight like shadows with our hobnailed boots held in our hands.

V. We will publish one issue of TNFF after our assumption of office. This will contain reports by the elected officers, announcement of our appointments, and no reports by appointive officers for lack thereof. The address list in TNFF (if we print one) will be somewhat out of date; in fact, even our addresses might be wrong.

No more issues of TNFF will be published (ever). The editor, replacing Holland, will write a few heartbroken notes to inquiring members promising to publish Real Soon Now; with a bit of work, these notes could be absolutely convincing. Soothing, even.

VI. Another ethical problem might seem to exist in the need of some persons for the N3F. It shall be our watchword that these privileged citizens shall be watched-out-for, and nothing shall be done which will harm them -- but we cannot allow the National Fantasy Fan Federation to live just for them. We must destroy it, gentlemen; before it destroys us.

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A MONOGRAPH ON ASHES

As last issue I included a number of items which were circulated through other APAs, this issue I am including some pages extracted from Bill Rotsler's TATTOED DRAGON series. But on with the mailing comments:

ALLIANCE AMATEUR (Patten) Thanks for the Dividend, but I wish the label and pocket would stop coming off.

What -- if anything -- happened to that Combozine? Was everyone else as lazy and/or disinterested as I was? I didn't notice anyone selling the things at the Pacificon.

I should like to point out that the filksongs in RACHE 14 are not reprinted from another APAzine or from another zine of any kind. They are the original run I did in 1962, some few of which were sold at Chi, the rest of them going into OMPA simultaneously with these going into N'APA. As such, credit is, I believe, allowable, even if unneeded.

As for the idea that MENACE OF THE LASFS went to "over 100 MENACE subscribers," you're dreaming! The sub list for MENACE is much lower than that, with the total press run being around 55 for a regular issue.

I have again filed for the post of Official Editor of N'APA. Tho I scarcely expect to win, since the OEsip appears to be some sort of a Constitutional (or Bylawic) Monarchy, one of these years the membership may decide that it is Time For a Change. Besides, no one that I know of has ever been elected OE of three APAs at the same time, and I'd like to try it.

By the way, how about starting a Volume-and-number system for the OO? This could be done either on an annual basis like FAPA, in which case

the September AMATEUR would be Vol. 6 No. 2; or it can be done on the basis of one volume for every change in Official Editor, as SAPS does, making the September AMATEUR Vol. 5 No. 7 [Remember, Jack had only three mailings.]

HITHER, THITHER, AND YONDER 1 (Zibelman) According to the Britannica Dictionary, "parenthesis" is a singular noun, with "parentheses" being the plural.

SF PARADE (Woolston) Castora's suggestion about storing comics in Baggies is useful only for the collector with a fairly small collection. If one has 500+ comics that he wishes to keep in order, he can't continually put them into and take them out of Baggies. At this level, the only solution is a filing cabinet. I find that a legalength cabinet will take two rows of comics, standing upright, in each drawer. A five-drawer file will hold hundreds of comics. (All this assumes, of course, that the collector with so many comics can afford to buy a filing cabinet. Or will buy it even if he can't afford it.)

Another method of preservation for comics is binding them. (Some collectors will object, but they're purists.) Binding keeps the comics (or magazines of any kind) all together and in one place, and you can transfer them from the filing cabinet (or the Baggies) to the bookshelf. Bear in mind, however, that you will seldom be able to bind a comic complete from the first issue, and allow for eventual binding of issues earlier than those you have on hand. With the current thicknesses of comics, 24 is the optimum number of comics per volume, so I wait until I have #'s $24(n-1)+1$ thru $24(n)$, where n is any whole number greater than zero. (e.g., #1-24, 25-48, 145-168, etc.)

SCRUNCH (Weber) Okay, I'm interested in obtaining a copy of your TAFF report when it's ready. I suspect it may get to be too much of a habit to have ATom illustrate TAFF reports -- yours, his own, Bob Madle's, etc. -- and he may get tired of doing them after a while. (I asked him to illustrate Madeleine Willis's "DistAWF Side," too.) But as long as he's interested in doing them, I'm interested in seeing the illustrations. They go so well with TAFF Reports.

If your TAFF Report is anything like your Huntsville Report, it will be quite good indeed, and I do look forward to reading it. And thank you for your kind words on The Tower and its inhabitants.

SPINA (Thorne) In suggesting any plan to eliminate "deadwood" from the NFFF you ignore several basic facts about the organization. One is that the club is, for many people, a small window on the world of fandom where they can watch the actions from the periphery without having to enter. Eventually some, such as the newly arrived neo-fans, will enter into the activity of fandom. Others never will, but they will remain in the NFFF and pay their dues for years. Which brings up the second point: the non-actives pay dues which allow the actives to go ahead with many of their projects. Without a large membership, the N3F wouldn't have the Hospitality rooms at conventions, or be able to sponsor contests and awards, or publish large OOs. And if every member of that large membership were to become active, there would be too many projects for the money to handle. The only alternative would be to kill off the NFFF... (Arguments against mine should include your idea as to what the purpose of the NFFF is or should be.)

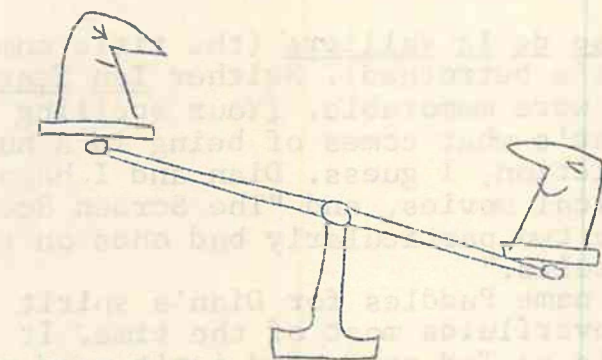
Your repeating of the question "Where have all the idiots gone?" is almost enough to get me started on the parody I was working on a year

I GO ON A RAMPAGE
EVERY SIX MONTHS
WHETHER I HAVE
ANYTHING TO GET
MAD ABOUT OR NOT.

IT MAY BE A
UNIVERSAL TRUTH
BUT IT SOUNDS
LIKE A DAMN
LIE TO ME!

I WOULDN'T SAY YOU
HAD A RARE DISEASE -
ONLY A FATAL ONE

SHE COULD HAVE ME
IF SHE PLAYED HER
CARDS RIGHT



THERE IS NOTHING
WORSE THAN STANDING
IN THE DRAFT OF
AN OPEN MIND

I SAW THE
MOST BEA-
UTIFUL GIRL
IN THE WORLD
TODAY

ago. It started with

Where have all the fuggheads gone?

...Joined N'APA every one. ...

Where have all the N'APAns gone?

...Gone for SAPSites, every one. ...

untul it went the circle and came back through:

Where have all the APEXians gone?

...Gone for Fuggheads, every one. ...

I guess "idiots" fits as well.

DYNATRON (Tackett) I'm bemused by your lino: "But where will we get another Laney?" Why would you want one? And if you mean "another vitriolic iconoclast," I'm quite sure we can locate several of them without having to look very far at all.

As for Laney and Degler still being subjects of conversation and discussion long after their departure from the fannish scene, allow me to quote Old Will: "The evil that men do lives after them,
The good is oft interred in their bones."

FOOFERAW (Patten) I can assure you that at least one member checked his back mailings before voting in the egoboo poll -- two members, if you checked... .

Are you sure that Azusa is an Indian name? I was under the impression that it was a made-up one, as the local C of C claimed they had "everything from A to Z in the USA."

NIEKAS (Meskys, Rolfe, Chatland...) Felice, there are six different books in Dumas's Three Musketeers series; I have read all but one -- though two of the ones I did read weren't overly worthwhile. In chronological order they are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The Three Musketeers | 4. The Vicompte de Bragellone |
| 2. Twenty Years After | 5. Louise de la Valliere |
| 3. Ten Years Later | 6. The Man in the Iron Mask |

The only one I haven't read is Louise de la Valliere (the title coming from the name of Raoul de Bragellone's betrothed). Neither Ten Years Later or The Vicompte de Bragellone were memorable. [Your spelling is probably correct and mine wrong; that's what comes of being in a hurry.]

Yeah, "The Screen Scene" is fiction, I guess. Dian and I happen to like corny Italian pseudo-historical movies, and "The Screen Scene" was thought up as a result of seeing two particularly bad ones on the same bill -- a "Goliath" and a "Hercules."

Anne, the implications of the name Puddles for Dian's spirit duolicator are quite correct -- it overfluids most of the time. It is only a hand-cranked job, not electric as Ted said, and isn't used very much since most of our zines are done in mimeo on my Gestetner, which is named Sadan'.

"The Grazzdipple Bonk" is quite enjoyable, but I expect better scansion out of carl frederick. Just a few scansion changes would make it really swing along, instead of having it bump every couple lines.

Duncan McFarland: Yarst on Rasty you, you Artsy Satyr.

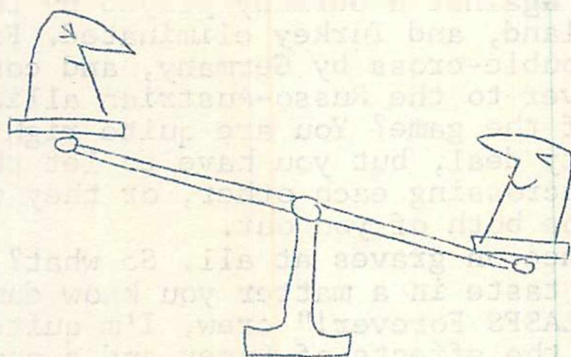
MICKEY (KUSske) Lemme have a swing at this "self chosen celibacy" bit you're going on about. I will grant your possibility that a celibate may not want to procreate. However, this says nothing

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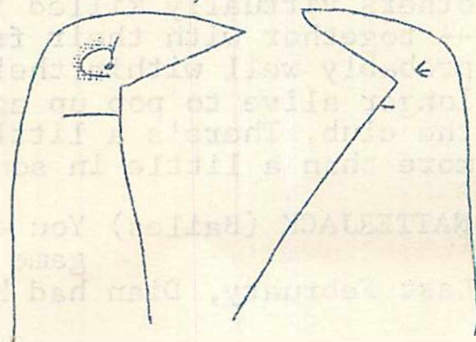
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against the Kohnist idea that he -- our hypothetical celibate -- may consider himself unworthy to be procreated. The only other reason you offer is that he may be obeying someone or something. Blind obedience. Okay, blind obedience to whom or what? I can't think of any dictatorial power that could make him not want to procreate, though there are many that could make him not engage in the act of procreation. [It should be emphasized that we are discussing only the act of begetting children, and not sex-for-the-fun-of-it. Also, I assume that a male celibate is under discussion, as inclusion of females would widen the topic considerably.] I can, of course think of other reasons why a man might want to remain celibate: self-interest, for example. Or downright apathy. Either of these would remove the desire to marry and raise a family -- or even to raise a family under common law. But I think you are quite far off-base in suggesting Obedience.

I cannot find anything at all to say in favor of blind obedience. There should always be a reason for obedience, or man is no better than an automaton, a fact I am unwilling to admit. This reason may be physical [do what I say or I'll knock your block off; do what I say and I'll give you 50 dollars] or mental/emotional [do what I say because I'm right and this is the best way for all of us...; do what I say because my previous actions have indicated that I act in your best interests] or something of that sort. But there must be a reason that the obedient person feels he is acting in his best interests somehow or other.

I politely request that any rebuttal not attempt to bring "the greater good of mankind" into the argument. I'm sure that Kohn will be glad to quote the Galtist pledge to you against this kind of rebuttal, and I will also be glad to add, from "Camelot": "If Charity means giving, I give it -- to you!"

Hmm. I see that the Republican Convention has already made hash out of your predictions. As for the untested ones, we shall have to wait and see, though I'd be interested in knowing why you think Germany and France will fight on the side of Red China in case of a 1970 war.

YOKNEAM YAPPING (Kohn) I think I'm managing "REAL perfidy" in a Diplomacy game right now. Playing Russia with an iron-clad alliance with Austria-Hungary against a Germany played by the inventor of the game, and Italy, England, and Turkey eliminated. France is down to four forces, thanks to a double-cross by Germany, and control of the French forces has been given over to the Russo-Austrian alliance. Want to take bets on the outcome of the game? You are quite right that an honest alliance is a really dirty deal, but you have to let the other players think you're open to doublecrossing each other, or they will gang up on you at the start and wipe both of you out.

So civilized people don't dance on graves at all. So what? Who are you to say what is or isn't in bad taste in a matter you know damn-all about? Though I'm not one of the "LASFS Forever!" crew, I'm quite enough of a fan-historian to realize that the effects of Laney and a couple others virtually killed the LASFS for about ten years, and the survivors -- together with their friends and relations, in a fannish sense -- are probably well within their rights to be glad their ex-antagonist is no longer alive to pop up again and write another article attacking them and the club. There's a little bit of "uncivilized man" in everyone -- and more than a little in some of us.

NATTERJACK (Bailes) You didn't exactly start a LA fad with the "Fandom" game you sent to Fred, but you almost scooped us. Last February, Dian had her pilot model of a "Fandom" game finished, and

I'M A TECHNICAL
ADVISOR FOR
STAG
MOVIES



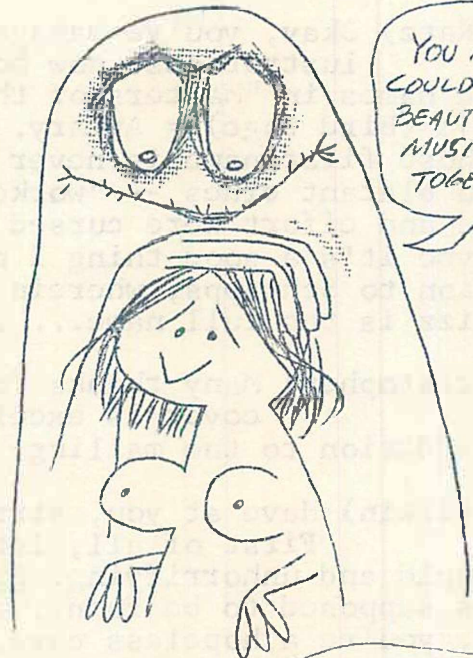
I HEARD THE ANGUISHED
CRY OF YOUR WILDLY
BEATING HEART AND I
FLEW TO YOUR SIDE,
BABY.



I'M SICK TO THE
POINT OF BEING
ILL



YOU AND I
COULD MAKE
BEAUTIFUL
MUSIC
TOGETHER



I WAS ELECTED
MOTHER IMAGE
OF THE YEAR



I WANT TO BE A
REAL WOMAN AS
LONG AS I CAN
BE GIRLISH
ABOUT IT.



it was played at a party early that month. When your game arrived, Fred showed it all around, but Dian and I stayed away from it, as we didn't want to swipe any of your ideas when the final version of Dian's game came out. I guess it was June before we finally ran off the 80 copies of the game and started selling the things (\$1 each if anyone is interested in a copy.) Unlike yours, this is a board game where a player tries to get to the end through various difficulties, most of which come about through the drawing of various cards (over 300 of them are included in the set). I understand from Fred that your game is a circle-the-board-and-collect-money-and-points type.

Fred was right; your parody is better than mine.

GEMZINE (GMCarr) May I congratulate you on your remarks to Anne Chatland in this issue? (I intent this to convey only an appreciation of excellent scalpelwork, and not an approval or disapproval of either participant.)

I regret -- but not very much -- that Dian has no intentions of getting into N'APA as an "instant member." She does not belong to the N3F, and therefore is not eligible for N'APA membership of any kind, a fact she is quite gleeful about as she has so many other fannish activities to deal with already.

MEOW 2 (Katz) Okay, you've managed to find a dozen members who did illustrations. Now how many of them did artwork?

The names in "Masters of the Microcosm" you missed were: Caije = Burt Caije (Bird Cage) = Aviary. And I'm surprised at you for missing O'Hay, whose first name is never given. What is hay measured in? Even after two blatant clues -- "worked only as the spirit moved him" and "his life and effort were cursed in Dnieppuh" -- you still didn't get it? Pfui. Maybe it's a good thing I never got to the third chapter, involving the mission to Schnapps, wherein a character Tizz enters the story. Arnica Tizz is the full name... .

BURI (Christopher) Many thanks for sending through N'APA -- the Habblitz cover is excellent indeed, and the entire zine is a welcome addition to the mailing.

ZINGARO (Irwin) Have at you, sirrah thou fellow, for your movie reviews.

First of all, let's take "Comedy of Terrors," which you to be stupid and unhorrifying. Primus, it isn't supposed to be horrifying, it's supposed to be funny, and if nothing in that film struck you as funny, you're a hopeless case. The boozing Price, his wife who sings excruciatingly off-key but sounds "like a nightingale" to the lovesick Lorre; the Shakespearean Rathbone who won't stay dead, but keeps waking up and demanding "What place is this?" in a sepulchral voice; the frantic scenes between Lorre and Joyce Jameson; and the finale where everyone looks dead but only one is -- none of these were funny to you? I am appalled, sirrah.

Next, let's take "The Circus of Dr. Lao." I'd like very much to know why you consider it a "very poor adaptation" of the book. You've even got the "seven faces" wrong, forgetting Appolonius, one of the best characters in the movie. [I realize the movie rung in Merlin and gave him part of Appolonius of Tyana's job, but it does not hinder the impact of the movie or the effectiveness of the cinematography.] Randall did not play the sea serpent, or "himself." Enlarge on your review -- why was it a "second-rate movie"?

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Incunebulous Publications, #291. September 1964. N'APA 22. Bruce Pelz