SERCON'S BANE #16

MAY 1963

F M Busby, 2852 14th Ave West Seattle 99, Washington

FAPA 103

...and as usual it gives <u>Arglebargle</u> about the previous mailing...

F A #102: The old order changeth (Coswal out, Rike and Kidd apparently so) yet stayeth much the same (T Carr out & back in within the quarter). Havoc wrought among the W-L for lack of acknowledgment or \$\$ to the S-T. Where will it all end?

As a rasty precisian from way back I must point out that the proposals listed by OEney are not yet amendments under the appropriate section of the Const, which see.

Qurp 2 (Bennett): I expect you'll get about 50 times the response per drop of sweat from Qurp as from the Directories; I mean, what can one say about Directories? They are nice to have on hand and they are a greal lot of work to produce; right? So OK...

I can make dollars/sterling conversions all right, but I'm a little slow at it. Outside of fandom the problem simply does not arise in this area, and the multiplication tables taught in US schools generally stop with 12s so that the cortical-thalamic pause is required when 14s enter the picture.

IQ is a number assigned to a given test-score in "calibrating" the test for a supposedly representative population of testees. Take 6 different tests and you will get as many IQ numbers; however, these should with luck agree fairly closely as to your "percentile" ranking in that population.

Vandy 17 (Coulsons, with Tucker added): I'm afraid neither Elinor nor I would willingly reduce our roster-listing to just one of us; if dual memberships looked to be in danger of abolishment we would probably make a speedy request for separate memberships under Gregg's latest ruling, pay two sets of dues, and sell the extra mailing bundles to a deserving waiting-lister. Elinor always did want separate votes, anyhow...

Meanwhile I think the amendment first-proposed in this FA(103) is worth studying. Remind me to stay away from Vegas. Traps turn me off. I don't mind observing

the workings of the more subtle type, but the blatant stuff gets pretty insulting in a short short while, and a whole damn town of it... not for me, thanks. Hoog.

Target:FAPA (Eney): Re coat&tie, don't forget my objection #2-- the discomfort of wearing a blanket in a place heated for gals in off-the-shoulder dresses: equal rights.

I'm not feuding with Bergeron; I had a gripe and I made it. No answer as yet. Yes, the outrage or injustice of the Martin case has worn pretty thin by now, with neither the victim nor his staunchest supporters in FAPA ever making Move #1 about it.

Dick Lupoff: you just don't appreciate History, suh! Granted that Laney's writeup is intensely personal and unavoidably partisan, its greatest fault is generalization-- from FTL's personal problems to rationale of all fans, and from the behavior of one club at its kookiest (WWII was a kookie time, friend) again to all of fandom. But I find ASI a highly interesting document on many counts, not the least of these being its role in the rise of Insurgentism and FIJAGH.

Fringe 3 (Ashworth): You folks do seem to have an interesting time, even with people taking embrange at you now and then. With one lump or two, I wonder? Now a thought just struck me (and foul at that); I don't want to make you nervous or anything, but are you sure that perhaps "embrange" is not just technicalese for "aim"? Hmmm...

Airguns sound like fun at that. Come to think of it, I could shoot one of those out in the yard and get away with it, which won't do for the Deringers or the Beretta. I share your distaste for "hunting" beater-driven birds. Birdhunters here also use the shotgun, but a pheasant exploding unpredictably from tall grass is no cinch.

Perian (Ellern): I seem to have commented (approvingly) already on this one, in SAPS.

Tomorrow April 28th being our 9th Anniversary, Elinor and I since that last bit there repaired ourselves to the Hyatt House and had us a Fancy Expensive Dinner as a part of celebrating the occasion.. today rather than tomorrow because no drinks in this state on Sunday, and like we did have drinks, ranging from Martinis first thru

((MCs--2))

bubbly along-with to B&Bs after. (I know champagne is for clods, but I happen to be one of the clods who like it.) It was a fine blast (at the price, it had better be), but still we can't help looking around and wondering where is everybody... y'know? * + * + * + * + * + * + * + * + *

Spinnaker Reach 1 (welcome there, Russ Chauvenet): I nope you didn't miscatch the point of the Manifesto, that I who like both Dick and Ted assembled tongue-in-cheek the most horrendous insults and denunciations I could think of, to a point far beyond simple absurdity, so that anything further by either party would be redundant and superfluous. The idea of both feuders cosigning and knowingly using the same set of words as two-way demolition, still breaks me up. Maybe I just have simple tastes.

There is no "need" to have a rule that 2/3 of the membership can vote a W-Ler directly into membership; right now, 33 members can vote anything into effect, under "Special Rules" which I believe is Section 9 of the Constitution. Your proposed rule would require 44 votes, which is OK by me because I am against the whole idea anyway.

Of course I should have said, up there, "Welcome back.." Except that I wasn't here when you were, before. Ah, well, let's leave the proper form to the grammarains.

Revoltin' Development (Alger): Sure, it makes perfectly good sense to have a bunch of cars, some running and some for cannibalizing, of the same make and general partsinterchangeable era. I knew several people who did just about that with Model-A Fords Befo'-de-Wah, and in fact I was one of a group who did this jointly at times. It is perhaps only your choice of make-and-era that seems exotic to us. but after all: if you have a good start in Packards, why switch? May they run eternally.

Burblings 12 (Burb): Elinor can back you up on the boolfight scene, being the one in this house who has actually seen the events in person. Among the protesters, I think there is a lack of clarity in distinguishing between killing as a participating or a spectator sport. Let's let everybody sort out their attitudes toward the boolfight, Thanksgiving, hunting, professional boxing, soldiering, the Indianapolis speedway, driving to grandmother's house for Thanksgiving on the freeways, epic historical movies, Mickey Spillane, a little better than half of TV "action" programs, comic books, ice hockey, and how they would like to get a fat lip. Should be instructive.

You and Mal Ashworth should get Air Gun Fandom going in good shape, about now. Knowing you for a true gentleman, I am sure that when this shrubbery-entangled

lady gave you her imperial mandate to cop a feel, you were equal to the occasion?

Nicknames: at the present time I am known (so far as I have been informed) only as "Buz" and as "that sonofabitch". Formerly I've had other tags: Ozzie, Buzzbomb, Tiger (people sure do duplicate, don't they?), Boozby, Crash, & That Bastard. It just goes to show what a young fella can do when he sets out to improve himself.

Beauty and the Beast (Nelson/Trimble): Hoo hah!

A Funny thing .. (Miri): Nice to see you in here, swinging. See you at Westercon?

Phantasy Press 40 (McPhail): Being somewhat addicted to statistics myself, I always enjoy your scorecard reports. Having done the tabulation on a couple of Polls I do appreciate the work involved, also, and the difficulty of avoiding errors and oversights. I am quite surprised to see so few people entering more material than Elinor and I entered last year, though, considering that we're both finding it difficult to get on the stick and write fully on any mailing in time to hit the deadlines. Dry Martooni 2 (Harness et al): Always interesting to read about the alternateuniverse Cons attended by others. ## OK, Jack, let's you and I save the world and split it 50-50. You gotta learn to drive first though, or I get 75.

Rambling Fap 32 (Calkins): OK, displaced Utah fan; this time you have quite a few "I wish I'd said that" lines. I've chuckled through "The Girl, the Gold Watch, and Everything" twice so far; I wonder if it can get any funnier on a 3rd reading.

You speak one great big sack of sooth concerning the difference in attitudes toward sex when it is available and when it ain't. Like, I put in time in the Aleutians where women were nonexistent except for a few Red Cross girls, otherwise known as the Officers' Mess. It do get pretty snarly under such circumstances.

((MCs - 3: Apr 28, '63))

Pooh #1 (Shaws): Pity that the few fans who persistently barge right in unannounced keep that subject in the spotlight and thus tend to embarrass or inhibit the great majority of welcome types who make arrangements beforehand. We've never had the 3am bit, praise God, and with luck we never shall have it. We've had only one person who made a habit of turning up at the door without even a call first to say that he was in town. This, as you might guess, got old-- and eventually died of it.

"I came here to talk for Joe; Gee, that guy sure loves you so...", or something close to that second line, is all I remember of the ditty.

Horizons 93 (Warner): As I keep saying, all it takes to put any W-Ler (or anyone else, for that matter) on the roster, is 33 signatures, none of which will be mine.

So according to law we can beat the hell out of kids so long as we have a nice charter that says we are giving religious instruction. I see the judge's problem.

History: Subject to human error, we'll try to get some Seacon literature to you and will see what is available in the way of pre-'60 CRYs. CRY 135, Jan'60 (10th Annish) contains the Pelz-Toskey index of CRY 1950-59 but we ran out of spares on that one the same year; help, anyone? Also Sinisterra#6 had historical material by Bill Austin; there's some stuff in CRY#100 also, and I think we can locate those.

The Kleenex SAPSzine was a Detroit effort; Howard? No info on EKEverett, but will ask at next Nameless meeting. Nancy Rapp can relate her revelation of Ignatz. I think we have some copies of Vega (obtained from Chas de Vet) which could go out on loan if I can find them.

"It is a proud and lonely thing to be a man" is the inscription on the base of the statue of Tully Kloote erected by a race of ambulatory jelly doughnuts: "To Watch the Watchers", by W. Macfarlane, aSF, June 1949.

Eostre (Speer): Section 2.3 simply says that the S-T "..shall require [from each WLer] suitable confirmation of continued interest in membership not less often than every other mailing..". Suitable confirmation. Not less often. I don't find the present requirements to be in violation of these provisions; in fact, the wording would allow some really fiendish and outrageous strictures if any S-T really got power-mad...

Judging solely by your remarks on the unlikelihood of the CPUSA "staging a revolution", no one would guess that you were not only alive but literate and adult when the fall of France brought the term "Fifth Column" to prominence. With the Hitler-Stalin Pact in solid working order at that time, Communists played a larger part than Fascists in the internal sabotage and demoralization of the French forces.

Since the statements of many ex-Communists indicate that they quit precisely because the CPUSA is an "arm of the Kremlin" and eventually they couldn't stomach it any longer, I fail to see how their quitting proves the opposite of what they say.

"New occasions teach new duties", indeed. The ingenious Soviets have become quite proficient at providing us with new occasions to wear our pants at halfmast.

However, I feel that what the Congress needs is not investigators, but rather semanticists, to enable the writing of laws that are protective without being oppressive. It's not more data that's needed, but better, more flexible thinking.

Alif (Karen): I got a review copy of "The Girl, the Gold Watch, and Everything" too. I wish these outfits would send 'em out a little earlier, though. So far I have not received even one that I hadn't already picked up a month or so previously. And paid for it, worse luck. I'm not sure but what "The Girl.." is a little too Topperish to be real live Hugo bait, but that's up to the voters. However, not only is it copyright 1962, but my own copy was purchased off the stands in Dec'62-- the first copy, that is. So if you intend to push this book for a '63 nomination, your first step is to stuff nitpicker Norman Metcalf into a sack and drop him off the nearest convenient bridge. Come to think of it, that's not a bad idea in itself.

You mean that Doctor Fu Manchu was really Professor Moriarty, all along? Wow.

"I don't care who you are, China-Boy; the Board of Health says no giant spiders!"

((MCs - 4))

Day*Star 20 (Marion): I agree too thoroughly with Walter's disapproval of the Welfare State to be able to spot holes in it, but in some parts it moves so quickly that I feel he must be leaving gaps. As a Gimlet-Eyed Snob I must protest the statement that "the human species, under the influence of Pauline Christianity and the Protestant Ethic" are busily overpopulating the world. Christians (including the nominal) constitute about 32% of the world population, Protestants about 8%. Let's have a big hand for the Moslems and Hindus, both every bit as breedhappy as any Catholic if not more so, before leaving this point. Finally, the necessity of "radical changes in the social structure" is cited about 3 times. What changes? And (without knowing the nature of these changes) can we get there from here? Sequel upcoming, perhaps?

Marion: That's a mean cycle, devaluating one level of schooling to make it fit a lower level of capability in the student, then adding the requirement of an additional level when the graduates of the watered-down level don't fit the job. However, we can't evade the problem that the Best Minds are increasingly changing the world so that a greater percentage will be incapable under the steadily rising standards. I do not have an answer for this, and certainly "set back the clock" is no answer. The critique of Conant leads to some speculative thoughts. Are we concerned with the schools as places where children go to learn the basic mental skills required for participation in the culture (active, that is) -- or as the social subculture that they have become, that has in the absence of better aims produced the Cult of the Teen? Your dig at vocational training in a changing technology is a very good one-- it gives to think-- is the concept of X solid years of "education", followed by Y years of "life" or career, the thing that needs reexamination? How about knocking out the shibboleth of school-then-work? (This is a "radical social change", not just a schoolboard item.) Why not make basic literacy the requirement for holding a job (full- or part-time), not age? The same to hold (within limits) for marriage, voting, or driving a car? Now, the kid at whatever age can read, write, add, subtract, etc, and knows the laws of his culture well enough to stay out of jail if he wants to. Why can't he go to work for a while if he wishes, full or part-time, and return to school any time he needs to know something more, whether trivial or an entire body of knowledge? This would be at the High School level particularly but of course not exclusively. Granted, it will not work right now; the "drop-out" usually can't go back comfortably -- to the subculture, that is, not to the learning process itself, the books&teacher bit. Next witness?

Sercon's Bane and Salud (#15 each) were a little skinny, but present.

Dark Images & Unseen Gods (Rotsler): I never know when you're kidding but you got it there, man.

Westward Hoog! (about half of LA): Like an Invention Report only with real people.

Wraith 20 (Ballard): Right you are; most people in late "30s weren't too concerned with possibility of the US entering another European war. A great many felt that our (predecessors') having gotten into WWI had been a big mistake (I couldn't agree more) and that surely our Peerless Leaders wouldn't be so stupid twice in a row (ahahahaha!)

Ownership (re you and the Preston Farm) is so ephemeral around here that after a mere 8 years (or even during it) no one asks us if this is the Gillmor Place (per 1941-1954), let alone the Morrison Place (indeterminate-to-1941). So it goes; the index these days is the neighborhood kids. To them, this is where Nobby & Lisa live.

I think I made the Two Towers crack at ChiconIII about Saturday afternoon... probably in the 3rd-floor area near the top of the escalators. Sound about right?

Cockatrice 3 (Boggs): "Armageddon Old, and Tired" is a great heading, but I don't dig the text so much. Martin was dumped following the Nov'61 mailing. I entered a gripe in the Feb'62 mailing and in direct letters to the then-S-T. Had I felt as you do, I would have pushed for action at that time, not a year later when nothing but 33 names could do the trick. I assure you that I would not whine for a solid year and then pull this dying-martyr act, without ever having tried any goddamn action, for CRYsakes. Martin acted like a spoiled brat; is it contagious or something?

Well, what the heck, I'll drop it any time you do, man; it is getting pretty old ...

((MCs - 5))

Descant 9 (Clarkes): Oh, I wouldn't say that pose was characteristic of Boyd; I see shoes in that picture, just for one thing. Typical maybe, but not characteristic. Salada Tea might or might not turn me on, but its commercial sure as hell did. IBM sounds like fruitcake by Mickey Mouse [the place is run by a computor, Gina.] So this Texas chiropodist recommends carving the toes to fit the shoes, does he?

Fine. I am selling flat hats and now I know how to fit one to his pointed head. Norm: Well, what Gina calls "fries", Treece's "Jason" calls "sweetbreads". This just goes to show what the hell the ancient Greeks knew about anatomy, huh? Or Treece, maybe. I never heard the "fries" bit before, but could see no other reason for all that coyness so guessed right out of a clear blue sky, sort of (little bit bloodshot).

...like beer and tomato juice, yeah. Alberta is quite a place to drink beer. I recall one evening in Banff, about July 1949. The gang of us went through the routine of sloshing down all the beer off a table loaded with full glasses, in about five or six minutes, mostly after the management threw the close-out punchline. 10pm, which is pretty late for us cleancut types [no, we are not talking about "fries" now; that was further up the page]. Safely out onto the sidewalk and sloshing quite a lot, we then recalled that the Vet's Club a block away was open for an extra hour, so we went there and did the whole table-clearing scene all over again. Only this time with tomato juice in the beer. We staggered out again and drove out [my car, me driving] into the hills for necking-and-prospects. I had a fight with this girl from Edmonton and didn't make out after all. So much for your goddamn tomato juice. Or maybe the chick was just too masculine, now that you mention it. She didn't look it, though, kidding astride.

What do I mean by getting along with the opposite sex? Digging sex as a friendly cooperative venture, I guess. Going off the rails? All the ways of failing to do so.

Offhand I think I hallucinated from the powders more than from the fevers themselves. I could be wrong on this, but that's how I seem to recall it.

Your Chicon report is fine; much more convincing than the Raeburn visit, hey?

Ankus 6 (Pelz): By golly, you \$#\$14 independently invented the idea I've been trying to find a way to utilize, since Pittcon or maybe before-- the gimmick of a whole gang of beardniks simultaneously deforesting before appearing disguised at a Costume Ball, and then confusing everyone thereafter. You, at Chi, fooled me <u>completely</u>, man.

Isomer 10 (Graham): One of us is beginning to make more sense. I'm not sure which.

Badli 14 (Hevelin): About 16 months ago, Bill Evans and I sat here in this room and discussed the business of restoral-to-membership petitions. Or maybe it is was about 28 months ago; whoever said I was neat? At any rate, the amendment framed at that time and passed a few months later definitely aimed to bracket a dues-lapse with an activity deficit as the items that 12 signatures granted 90 days leeway. Or perhaps we were more drunken than it seemed, though somehow I doubt that-- we couldn't be. Oh, well...

Diaspar 10 (Carr): During the Cuban crisis I was lucky enough not to run into any of those moronic preoccupations with the USO or slants in wartime advertising; Everyone I knew was concerned with the prospects of survival, some overestimating these and some under- [& who am I to say which guess is right?]; all seemed to feel that it was a tough spot but what else was there to do? As to the issue being "simply national facesaving"[itself a more vital concern over the long haul that is immediately apparent], I see it more as the Camel's Nose, or, where do you draw the line? As to Russia's having "full nuclear destructive power over us", see Poul's fine analysis of the problem, now onstands in pb. Or the J E Burnelle series in CRY. Briefly, no attacker can waste a bomb on a city while any retaliatory missile site remains intact.

I get it; the Pyramids were a party project, symbolizing "Man, are westoned!" Psi-Phi 8 (Welcome, Bob Lichtman!): I wonder if Harness will comment on your critique

of Scientology. From what little I know of Hubbard's later (like, for the past 8-10 years) stuff, your report seems quite factual for such slight acquaintance.

No doubt several militant N3F members will tie into Gary's report. I had no such horrendous experiences in N3F myself, partly because Art Hayes knew I was chronically behind on letters and did not sic most of the WelCommittee onto me; however, the letters

((MCs - 6 - Apr 29 '63))

I did receive were pleasant and OK. For one thing I do not expect every reader of science-fiction to be a faaanish hipster; obviously most of these letters came from persons fresh out of the Z-D lettercols, and that's show business for you, I guess. Offhand I'd say the letters were comparable to those found on the editorial pages of the daily papers, except not quite so wrought-up. As I say, though, I was snowed at the time [when not?] and took advantage of Hayes' offer to put a blanket thank-you reply into his next Thru the Haze, and that was largely that. Why all the fuss?

Since OEney is cracking down on the "franking privilege", you are demonstrably right and Fred Patten wrong: Shadow FAPAzines do not belong in the bundles unless and until the individual members put them there after receiving them separately in the mails. Any other interpretation would allow anyone to get onto the WL and use the machinery of FAPA to take care of mailing 65 copies of his genzine. HUH-uh! And I think OEney is capable of turning down any zine he feels is being circulated under a member's name as camouflage; that decision is entirely up to him.

Null-F 32 (White): See the Veep & Prez messages for the rundown on your petition last fall for separate memberships, as it finally worked out. Why, by the way, did Sylvia and I get copies of your appeal to the V-P, while he and the S-T did not? Also, vote for the amendment which would remove the ambiguity that decided my November'62 ruling.

Point of correction: Elinor and I do not hold separate memberships in SAPS. The deal in SAPS is that dual memberships in which each half does full activity-requirements get separate votes-- if not, only one joint vote. Thass'all.

Covers on an OO also impede its function by requiring more space and both hands to open the thing up to check something in the mailing listing. The ideal FA would have the mailing listed on the front and the roster on the back, using microelite if necessary; all else is less often referred to and can go inside OK.

Walter: Honestly, I wasn't kidding a bit in my wry protest against the utter unthinking condemnation of "drunk driving" per the Safety Council and the lawbooks. I have no idea how many thousands of miles I have driven in states ranging from an unruly raucous glow to just plain stoned and even blanked-out, from 1939 to 1954; I have even on some few occasions "come to" and <u>discovered</u> myself driving, on at least 3 occasions that come to mind. So I know from experience that a law that convicts on 5-6 beers is as much of a farce as some of the laws that happen to bug vou. I do not by any means <u>advocate</u> overboozing at the wheel, on the basis of five major (that is, the car could not be driven further) smashups and perhaps as many minor (it still ran) ones under the influence in those 15 years. But the extent and degree of condemnation is actually pretty ridiculous, applied 100% to one and all, as it is.

All Conreports contain errors, Freudos, and inevitable personal prejudice, in spite of the best efforts toward accuracy, completeness, and objectivity. This fact is stated in defense of you and Richard Eney in the face of any who accuse you-all.

Celephais 34 (Evans): Roy J Snell books; the name is tantalizingly familiar. Would these by any chance be semi-stf dealing with semi-juvenile protagonists? Comes to mind a tale about a young fella who built himself a "chummy roadster" and modified the motor to use various types of carbon-dust for fuel? I read maybe 3 by this guy, if I do have the right name-- about 1934-35 and the books were then by no means new.

Oh come now-- we did not drink beer in the morning before going downtown so's I could get my paycheck, when you were here. Most likely we led off with Martinis just before lunch, after we got back from town. Anyway, you do bring your trips to life on paper, Bill, and come again soon; y'hear? Even though you did manage to get out of playing the great game of Getting Bill Evans to the Train, this time...

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Now I just hope that damn Gestetner is in a cooperative mood tomorrow afternoon when I get home from work. ## Wlater Breen, I am sorry but I cannot now locate the "Lines on the Manifest Destiny of the Lower Military" piece; I looked in the two most likely places and it ain't. There. It's a whole page, anyway. ## Any resemblance to logic , reasoning, or consistency in these pages is certainly to be deplored. # Have fun for the whole family with poison ivy. # This has been an exercise in Tantric Yoga.