

SERENADE

Serenade is published quarterly for the Shadow Fantasy Amateur Press Association by Richard Bergeron, at 110 Bank Street, New York City 14, New York. This issue, the third, is intended for the ninth Shadow mailing and is available to members and for comment. All letters received will be considered for publication unless otherwise specified. August, 1962. Circulation: 2080 copies

The delightful part of publishing a DISCORD size companion following immediately in the lumbering wake of the behemoth Wrhn is not the mental exhaustion I lavish on it, but that it gives me an opportunity to circulate a few sarcastic remarks forced out of the blue monster. If anyone was wondering why there was no "File 13" in Wrhn 16, the following message, which was received just after #15 went to press, will serve as an explanation. To date I've not seen any mention of this in either AXE or FANAC and when one can scoop them the time is ripe for another fanewsie. Remember: you read it in SERENADE first:

"You will regret to learn that Mr Redd Boggs committed suicide yesterday after reading the carbon copy of 'File 13', which I understand he wrote for you, and discovering an error on the first page: 'biological warfare' instead of 'bacteriological warfare.' At this, he rushed downstairs, filled the bathtub, and drowned himself. I thought you would like to know. He passed on without making a will, but I am trying to disentangle his affairs for him. He left behind a lot of old pulp magazines like 'Astounding' and 'Unknown' and a lot of old books I never heard of like 'The Outsider & Others' and a lot of old mimeod matter like 'Who Killed Science Fiction' and 'Cosmic Circle Commentator.' I've given all this to the Salvation Army."

(Miss) Lolita Bongflap.

FANTASTIC ADVERTISER

If anyone has a copy of LIGHTHOUSE #5 they're willing to part with, I'll pay \$1 for it so I can see what happened to my article "The Loves of Yesteryear." Various hints in the fan press have convinced me that the piece actually appeared there, but you'd never guess it from the lack of response my three postcards of inquiry inspired in the editors of that magazine. I said I'd pay \$1 for the issue, but I didn't say what dollar. If you're in a selling mood, mail me the magazine and send your bill to Terry Carr (#4G, 56 Jane St., NYC 14) and ask for the dollar I sent him for the FANNISH III. This advertisement is presented as part of the New Trend of Naming Names and as exhibit #1 in the casebook "The Ethics of Fandom".

THE FEUD OF THE CENTURY

FMBusby looks somewhat askance at my attempt in KIPPLE to devine parrellels between the actions of Robert Welch and Joe Gibson. FM puts it "No, I think your JBS slant on Joe's piece was strictly in the eye of the beholder, namely you", but thus far hasn't shown any inclination to document the statement. I really can't blame him, since that would involve re-reading both Joe's article and my comments on it (something I wouldn't wish on even FMBusby). I was about to let the matter pass with, perhaps, a mild observation that it's much easier to have an opinion than to know what you're talking about, but Walt Willis, with a few brilliantly cut phrases, has just made a significant observation and I'm going to sit back and watch the fireworks. In "The Warier Bard" in AXE #28, Walt wonders if there isn't "some way in which fandom can be freed from this creeping film of suspicion, this Nouvelle Vague, this Menace of the Faceless Monster" and suggests that the burden for clearing the rest of us could rest on Joe Gibson and one or two others. "This Menace of the Faceless Monster" is, of course, precisely the John Birch Society technique I charged Joe with and which FMBusby

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thinks is "strictly" in my eye. Well, I haven't rubbed eyeballs with Walt Willis since 1952 so I'm afraid Walt may have picked up the disorder through his own assessment. And if FMBusby is half the man I know he is, he isn't going to let Walt and I go on be-smirching the good name of Joe Gibson like this without revealing where we're wrong. After all, this naming names has to stop somewhere! (Perhaps I should add here that I do not make these remarks merely because I'm the president of the Spectator Amateur Press Society.)

FORCED OUT OF THE LETTER COLUMN!

"Thank Mr Wells for me for his defense. Trouble is I still don't know just what gaffs I've made that amuse Mr Lupoff so much. And Lupoff won't talk either although he gave me some sort of snobbish pat on the head in AXE. So I suppose I'll continue making gaffs from now till doomsday since I don't know they are gaffs. What the heck. Only alternative would be to gafiate entirely. And this I do not propose to do."

--Seth Johnson.

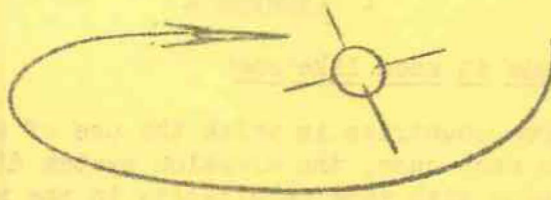
ANOTHER VOTE

I did not support George Willick, the idea of pretentious scrolls, plaques, statuettes, or the wildly truncated ballot that was circulated, but I do support the concept of the Fan Awards. I thus join the list which, at last glance, seemed to include Harry Warner, Ted White, Roy Tackett, Phil Harrell, and Bob Jennings. I support a comprehensive annual opinion poll of fandom and a report based on that poll, but, please, let's leave off the arm bands and shields. Willick has dropped the Fan Awards, but this doesn't mean that fandom can't salvage the germ of a good idea.

A FISHY LOOK AT KIPPLE

While yawning my way through the latest KIPPLE and thinking that I really should send Ted that postcard wishing he'd lay off the public prints for his editorial comments, I was stopped in my musings by a Pauls item devoted to this very alarm. It seems that Ted has been commenting on newspapers because if he didn't "Quotes and Notes" "wouldn't be nearly so lengthy", he doesn't have the talent to write light material, and they present an unriveted vista of fuggheadness. These strike me as rationalizations for three reasons: (a) Ted used to display a fanzine reviewing technique that could make the present editorial column look as short as an editorial from THE FANTASY AMATEUR even if he devoted the department to one fanzine, (b) people who can't write light material aren't automatically stuck on newspapers for topics, and (c) merely because newspapers may be fuggheaded doesn't mean that exposure and comment on such items will be interesting.

KIPPLE is neat, articulate and appears regularly and should be one of the hottest items on the fanzine market, but I suspect that when Ted moves his sights to an Alice McCluskey or a George Sokolsky he loses more readers than just myself. One of the principle pleasures of fandom is involvement. Even the most talented and interesting writers will have difficulty in drawing attention to a shooting match devoted to clay pigeons like McCluskey and Sokolsky, especially when we know that they'll probably never reply. Fuggheadism is not necessarily interesting, but is even less so when the debate is completely onesided. As a contrast, Pauls' comments on Busby's asides on Buckley & Jack Parr are one of the most fascinating things in KIPPLE #27 -- not because Busby is right or wrong but because Ted has here a writer who may defend himself and thus increase our own knowledge of the matter. One-sided debates are one of the most difficult things to arouse interest in, but an exchange has automatic values from enlightenment and unpredictability. KIPPLE, with its growing emphasis on comment without response, is becoming as dull as a disarmament conference. A pity, because Ted is capable of much more interesting work.



GREEN THOUGHTS by Charles Wells

ELECTIONS

The history of the integrationist movement in the United States since 1954 will probably be paralleled in a less spectacular manner by the reapportionment controversy that was opened by the Supreme Court's recent Tennessee decision. Prior to 1954 Negro leaders and sympathetic whites had complained at length about the predicament of the American Negro, but their voices were usually lost in the flood of events; their status was rather like that of the lonely Volkswagen owner before Detroit's foolishness and the whims of status-faddism turned the small car rather suddenly into a Thing to Have. There has been some progress: lynchings had practically ceased to occur before the Supreme Court decision, and in the North school integration was practically complete and Negro voting rights were generally assured. But the Supreme Court decision served as a focus of the interest of those people whose actions and ideas constitute the political life of the United States. Business leaders, politicians, and idealists (including students) for the first time turned their energies to the question of integration, either in supporting it or in opposing it; the only major group whose leaders did not particularly increase their participation in racial affairs was the labor movement. It is when a reform movement reaches this stage of concentrated interest that its chances of success become favorable.

Undoubtedly nothing as spectacular as the Sit-In- movement will come out of the reapportionment decision, although we may see a state capitol or two surrounded by pickets before the controversy dies down. But the effect on the political life of the United States will be greater, unlikely as this may sound. It is almost never recognized by anyone but political scientists -- and by them insufficiently -- that reapportionment and the related and more inclusive question of which election system to use can have a profound influence on a country or a political subdivision of a country.

In Germany in the twenties and early thirties, for example, an election system was used which actually encouraged the formation of splinter parties -- in a country which had deep religious and sectional divisions. This combined with the economic crisis of 1929 resulted in an immobility of government which greatly aided Hitler in his rise to power. In Spain shortly before the Civil War an election was held in which the rightists gained a slight majority of the popular vote but in which the leftists gained a slight majority of the seats in the national legislature. This occasioned considerable resentment on the part of the rightists -- indeed, they went to war to prevent the leftists from taking control. Would they have done so if the leftists had actually gained a majority of the popular vote as well? Now, we will never know. And in Argentina recently President Frondizi decided to continue conducting elections under the system which had served him and the pro-democratic parties so admirably in the past. This system tended to give the two largest parties the most seats, greatly cutting down the strength of the others. He had considered a more strictly proportional system. The result? The Peronists, who were allowed to run openly for the first time, got only one third of the popular vote -- practically all the rest went to pro-democratic parties -- but received considerably more than a majority of all the seats contested. This landslide panicked the Army, with results that were not at all pleasing to Sr. Frondizi. But was it really a "landslide"? No--the

election system simply made it seem like one.

Now I have named three countries in which the use of a certain election system caused grave trouble. In each case, the election system did not produce trouble in isolation, but in connection with some peculiarity in the political structure of the country. Belgium now uses essentially the same system that Germany used before Hitler, and Israel's is not too different either. But both those countries have stable governments. No other country to my knowledge has ever used a system similar to Argentina's, but it nevertheless could be used in any country with a strong two-party system with complete success.

The point is that the election system a country should use must be fitted to that country's political situation. There is no perfect election system. For example, the United States has had a long-lived, stable government under the system of elections it uses, even with the misapportionment that distorts the power structure of the country. But if this same system had been used in France's first postwar election -- as some American politicians suggested -- the Communists would have won an absolute majority in the French parliament. This in spite of the fact that less than two fifths of the Frenchmen voted Communist. On the other hand, if the system then used in France were introduced into the United States, we would probably soon find ourselves with a multiparty system worse than France ever had. It is rarely recognized that in the United States there are powerful splintering forces -- federalism, the race question, numerous minorities -- which are held in check only by the election system. This is not idle speculation; it has been proven by the experience of several towns and cities in the United States which adopted the Hare system in the twenties and thirties. The Hare system is now used by the much more homogeneous country of Ireland -- and the government there is quite stable.

Not only can the election system used bring diasaster on a country, but it can also help it solve its problems. Italy, which has the same problem with a large, intransigent anti-democratic party that Argentina has had, has had a stable government ever since the war, due in large part to the fact that it uses a different election system. But the most beautiful example of a country which has solved its problems by using a different election system has been Colombia. In the past, Colombia has borne a remarkable resemblance to pre-war Spain; it has had a deep division between Left and Right which has led it into civil war and the rise of a dictator. When it got rid of its dictator, the Liberals and Conservatives sat down together and worked out an election system which sounds monstrous to American ears, but which has given that country fifteen years of stability and good government. That system would probably have benefited prewar Spain -- but in most countries it would be worse than useless.

Right now, in my home state of Georgia, a shift in election systems and the threat of reapportionment has terrifically modified state politics. Under the old system of electing the governor in a manner similar to, but worse than, electing the President of the United States by electoral college, the rural areas had complete control of the statehouse. This year, the election (really the primary, which is the de facto election) is being held on a popular vote basis, as in other states. Already, the politicians who used to say "n-----" now say "nigra", and those who used to say "nigra" now say "nee-grow", and they all conscientiously consider the problems of the cities in their speeches. The same thing will be happening -- though not so drastically -- in most of the other states of the union, since nearly all state legislatures are misapportioned.

I envision, when people begin to realize these facts, the formation of an agency on election systems, which will come to town or city or state which requests its services and devise a specific election system which will ideally suit that

community. The National Municipal League performs many services of this sort already, but its suggestions on elections are generally rather unimaginative, although this is undoubtedly due in large part to the lack of sophistication on the part of American politicians concerning election systems. Perhaps an international agency could eventually be formed to serve the same purpose for nations.

In any case, because of the fact that the twin ideals of fair representation and stability of government are at the bottom contradictory, the right choice of election system is quite important and should be made only by someone sophisticated and experienced enough to know the factors that enter into such a decision. Ultimately, the goal will be an electorate which understands, even if dimly, the importance of the election system used, and which is willing to experiment to find the best one. Tinkering with the governmental machinery is good, not bad, for conditions change and a form of government suitable to a village or a nation twenty years ago may be radically unsuitable now. An attitude of mind amongst the electorate which will go along with, for example, a change in the election system for one election, after which a referendum may be held to determine whether to continue with the change or revert to the old pattern, would result in progress in governmental organization resembling that of the explosive progress of science in recent times, and for the same reason -- the intelligent use of experimentation.

EXPERIMENTATION

That remark about experimentation and science brings up a point that always gets me on my high horse, so prepare to be trampled, O Reader.

Many people have a thorough misunderstanding of the nature and object of science. If I should say that if everyone adopted a scientific attitude towards life, both towards the way they live their life and towards their opinions about life, many people who heard me would object strenuously. Science is cold and hard and mechanical, some would say; it leaves out "warm, human relationships", or at least that is the usual cliché. Others would say that science is too narrow to encompass all of life. Usually this type of person frowns darkly and says, all in capital letters, "There are Some Areas where Science Has No Answers." Still others say that science is destructive of all that is Fine and Good and Human in literature and the arts.

Balderdash. Science as a collection of knowledge can be dangerous, if the knowledge is applied wrongly; to say that is merely to utter a truism. But science is more than a collection of facts; it is an attitude of mind. This involves what is commonly called "the scientific method"; it might better be called rational empiricism, I am aware that Andy Young, for one, strenuously denies that "scientific method" even exists. He has a point, if what is meant by scientific method is a cut-and-dried procedure that one goes through mechanically.

But I believe another meaning can be given to the phrase "scientific method" which is usable and which brings out an important point that is often misunderstood. In this sense, "scientific method" is an attitude with which one approaches problems which one needs to solve. A beautiful example of what I mean was given recently in an issue of HOLIDAY, in an article on Scotland Yard. In the early part of the century, many Scotland Yard people suspected that one could associate criminal activity with certain facial features, just as cartoonists often give the goon a pug nose or coarse features. If this were suggested to the average person, he would almost without exception have an opinion on whether this is true or not, and he would be quite definite in his opinion. Yet nine out of ten people probably have never seen anything to confirm or deny that hypothesis in their lives.

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Scotland Yard did the scientific thing. They observed the various criminals they had to do with and noted their facial features. They did a statistical analysis of the results and came to the conclusion that facial features had nothing at all to do with criminal tendencies.;

Now, I do not advocate that everyone immediately run elaborate statistical analyses on every problem they are confronted with, in order to arrive at a solution. In many cases, appeal to authority is sufficient, if there is reliable authority. If you wanted to know whether criminal tendencies were associated with facial features, the wisest course of action would be to ask an anthropologist, not to run a test yourself. There is certainly nothing wrong with appeal to authority, if it is used properly and always cited.

Similarly, appeal to theory has its uses. Facts which are dubious for some other reason and which also contradict received theory may safely be thrown out. But the important principle is: facts of which you are certain always take precedence over theory or authority.

This principle does not conflict with "warmth and humanity", it does not destroy literature or art, it is applicable everywhere. The good writer, if he wants to be sure that he has gotten his point across, asks his readers what they got out of his work. He does not withdraw in a huff and mutter that anybody who didn't understand him is stupid. (Of course, some writers profess not to care whether they get their point across or not). If he uses common sense, of course, he will ask readers of that level of education and understanding for which he was writing. A children's book, obviously, must be more simply written than a graduate thesis in mathematics.

Similarly, the Don Juan who is of the fixed opinion that all women are alike -- they all want to be dominated -- will not succeed with those women who don't want to be dominated. If his purpose is to get as many good lays as he can, he will have greater success using scientific method! But, more importantly, the same thing applies to less spectacular inter-personal relationships -- if you want to keep a friend or a wife, observe which actions cause frictions, and which pleasure, and act accordingly. This does not in any way subtract from the humanness of your actions, and it nearly always adds to your "warmth". The theory that everyone should "be himself", and "act spontaneously", has caused more mischief in interpersonal relationships than anything except the idea of romantic love.

And there are no areas where scientific method cannot be used. Many of the objective claims made by religious people show up rather poorly under the scientific method, but I cannot see that this is other than good. It has been my personal observation (on an insufficiently large sample to be conclusive) that scientists who have religion are either of the type who separate their various ideas into watertight compartments, or they have a religion which is personal in a real sense: it is so personal that they have no real way of communicating it. They generally know better than to stick to pat religious formulas which, if not sheer nonsense, at least have an overwhelming mass of evidence against them.

Does this dispel the "mystery" of religion? On the contrary, if anything it makes it more mysterious.

I fear that all of what I am saying will either seem an obvious statement of common sense, or pernicious inhuman arrogance. It has become clearer and clearer to me in the past year or two that the fundamental difference between the humanist and the scientist lies not in the conclusions arrived at but in the methods used to

arrive at them. The one kind of person simply cannot understand the thought processes of the other.-- but it should be made clear that I have no intention of classing all people into one of the two categories, for this division seems mainly to be important when intellectuals get together. Nevertheless, the mutual alienness of the two states of mind are almost enough to convince me that There Are Martians Among Us -- and maybe I'm one of them! -- Charles Wells.

letters from the new rulers of the world

ALVA ROGERS: When I opened the wrapper (which was obviously from Bergeron) I didn't at first note the title of the contents and my initial reactions when I saw the magazine was, "My God! What's happened to Wrhn?" Although Serenade certainly isn't a Wrhn, it's a fine magazine and well worth receiving for both the Wells and McCain pieces.

Much of McCains's thinking on Fandom as a Way of Life finds a receptive spot in my own mind. I've been thinking along this same line in trying to compose my speech as Fan Guest of Honor at the upcoming Westercon. I've been in and around fandom for better than twenty years now with varying degrees of activity, and this ambivalence between FIJAGDH/FIAWOL in relation to my own involvement in fandom has been mildly bothersome to me. Of course, I was somewhat brainwashed into an attitude of FIJAGDH because of my association with Laney back in the early forties when he was being most vehement on the subject. But since then I've found myself regarding FIAWOL with a greater degree of tolerance.

In spite of Laney's fulminations against FIAWOL, fandom, in the early forties, was as much A Way of Life for him as it was for Ackerman. Fran was tireless in his fanac and it occupied virtually every minute of his time that wasn't spent working at his job. But still he insisted that as far as he was concerned fandom was just a hcbby, although he did admit at times that he probably spent too much time at it. Of course, there were external reasons for much of Fran's frantic fanac during those days which are too lengthy and involved to go into here, except to say that amongst them were a certain degree of boredom with the mentalities he found in his limited life outside fandom, and his marital problems.

In those days I went along with Fran in regarding fandom as Just a God Damn Hobby, although I realize now that it was much more than that simple for both Fran and me. As I think back over the years to those far away times, I can see now where fandom was, for me, almost -- if not completely -- a Way of Life. And I don't consider it a bad one, or something to make shamefaced apologies for at this late date. I had a ball! I made friends who I'll never forget, did things that still bring pleasurable memories, developed what meager talents I had, and (I like to believe) broadened my mental horizons. In LA fandom in the early forties, through the influence and example of other fans, I learned to like and appreciate good music, both jazz and serious; became actively interested in politics and social issues; discarded the remaining shreds of my religious credulity, and greatly increased my interest in general literature and the arts as a whole. It might be argued that this development would have taken place sooner or later even without the apparent stimulus of fandom, but it did occur during my most actively fannish period, when, if you will, fandom was to all intents and purposes A Way of Life for me.

In the years that followed my departure from LA when I was almost completely gafia (or fafia to be more accurate), getting married, raising a family, earning a living with a steady job, and having nothing but the most tenuous contacts with fandom, I found myself more and more faunching to get active again...strictly in a hobby sense, you understand. Although I had friends and a social life in mundane this never seemed to be as fully satisfying as it might be. On top of everything else, my wife, who was not a fan then and had had only a slight subjection to fandom (mostly at our

wedding), had a pretty low regard for fanac and characterized it as childish and fans as generally neurotic misfits. Being very much in love with her I had no intentions of jeopardizing our relationship by bringing the thing to the point of becoming an issue with her. Needless to say, her attitude has changed radically and we are both happily pursuing fanac these days.

Is fandom a Way of Life with me today? I honestly don't know for sure, but I would be inclined to give a qualified yes to that question if I were allowed to define the term the way it seems to apply to me. Essentially, it is a Way of Life for me insofar as it refers to that part of my life which is mine to do with as I please; the part of my life that is not taken up with my familial responsibilities, my work, and such community activities as I'm impelled to participate in. I find what limited fanac I indulge in today to be enormously invigorating after spending a third of my day at a job I don't particularly like and which is intellectually stultifying. And, yes, it's also a relief for both Sid and me to get away from the kids (much as we love the little bastards) and get with the fans here in the Bay Area. As long as we don't shirk our responsibilities as parents or responsible members of our society I certainly see nothing objectionable to devoting the bulk of our free time to fandom.

What is fandom, essentially, but people. Although I've never met you personally, Dick, I feel that I know you as a human being, your attitude toward your fellow man and to the world in general around you through having read your magazine and your letters in other magazines. This same applies to other fans I haven't met. Of the fans I know personally, or have known in the past, I've found very few that really turn me off. I've known some who I could just as soon do without, who are insufferably intellectually egotistical, or who are needlessly gauche or boorish, or who are just plain stupid, or who are morally bankrupt, or who are liars and backstabbers, or who are social misfits even in that haven of misfits, fandom. But types like these are numerically insignificant -- the overwhelming majority of fans I know or have known are people I enjoy associating with to a greater or lesser degree, depending on how their personalities react with mine.

The intellectual climate I find in fandom seems to me to be more invigorating than what I can find elsewhere. I think there is more dispersion of intellectual activity in fandom than in other microcosms, which may be regarded by some as a bad thing -- I don't. Fandom is constantly intellectually restless, moving from one interest to another, or evincing an interest in many things at the same time...even science fiction. I make no pretensions to intellectual superiority over anyone else, in or out of fandom. It just so happens that the things that interest me most are those which are commonly considered to be of an intellectual nature. I am by nature physically lazy and find it much pleasanter to exert myself mentally than physically, and fandom seems to serve admirably in stirring me into mental activity...or at least, into as much mental activity as I wish to be stimulated into.

Joe Gibson has accused me of being soft on fandom, of an excessive tolerance towards its faults, of minimizing the seriousness of the charges he levels. Although I don't react to fandom with starry-eyed idealism as Joe has implied, and am not completely blind to its flaws or to the fact that certain undesirables move around in it, still, on my balance sheet what virtues fandom has far overshadow its faults. Granting that fandom and fans are anything but perfect it remains, for me, the most satisfying outlet I've yet been able to find to absorb what energies, physical and mental, I have remaining from those expended in the routine humdrumities of life.

I enjoyed Well's "Green Thoughts," particularly his green thoughts on fanzines... maybe because for the first time in my fannish life I've become involved with the production of fanzines. Not a fanzine, but fanzines. Firstly, I'm an assistant editor

of the new Rhodomagnetic Digest being brought out under the auspices of The Little Men and edited by Al haLevy who, also, has never put out a fanzine before. The work we've done on this has been most illuminating, to say the least. Secondly, I'm due to be in OMPA sometime this year and my OMPazine is planned to be for general circulation as well as for OMPA. Maybe one of the reasons I've never published a fanzine is that I was afraid to subject such an "extension of my personality" to the pitiless scrutiny of some of our more ruthless reviewers. I jest, of course, but I do imagine that a particularly caustic review of a zine that some poor fan -- perhaps a neo -- has produced with such high hopes could be a pretty shattering experience.

I sympathize with Well's concern for the feelings of a fan who has produced a lousy fanzine, but I'm not so sure that a scathing review is intrinsically bad. If a magazine is illegibly reproduced, or has contents in questionable taste or of no discernable value, a few rough reviews, it seems to me, might have one of two salutary results -- either shake the editor enough so that his next issue would be even a little improved, which would be the more pleasant result; or, if the editor refused to take the hints it would sooner-or-later rid us of another curdzine. (5243 Rahlves Drive, Castro Valley, California.)

CHARLES WELLS: I don't quite know what to say about the McCain article. In some ways, fandom was a way of life for Vernon McCain himself; at one point we corresponded heavily (and I published REVIEW for him for about a year), but I should point out that I was only fifteen or sixteen then, not an age when one is particularly observant of other people. Nevertheless, it struck me then and in retrospect it strikes me now that he was more than commonly involved with fandom. One got the impression that fandom was his primary means of self-expression. I know he listened to classical music and at one time he was involved in debating -- in high school or college, I forget -- but the one is not self expression and he seems to have given up the other long before I ever knew him. But in a way this speculation is a violation of some sort of social or moral principle, I suppose; let me just say that I remember him as a solid fan, a quiet one, and I wish he were still around. (190 Elm St., Oberlin, Ohio)

WILLIAM F TEMPLE: Your description of Wrhn as the "trashing" of a chained green beast I charitably take to be just a run-of-the-mill Bergeron typo and not one of those Freudian "Here's what I really think" slips.

VIC RYAN: Shadow FAPA seems to be your justification for taking on another publishing venture, but its make-up is similar enough to Wrhn's to persuade me to think that the prospect of both reprinting McCain and adding a fine new column by Chuck Wells was probably too much. They both do fine jobs, and would fit ably into your SAPS entry, but with Willis, Blish, Boggs and Berry on hand, two more columnists would seem as unnecessary as adding old newspapers to a four-alarm fire.: You seem to have hit pretty well on some inaccuracies of the proposed Chicon IQ test; the results may be above the national average of 107, but they may not be significant when the other factors (higher education, voluminous reading and the simple fact that joiners have been proven to have higher IQ's than non-joiners) have been discounted. One big variable is Friday night partying; another that while a youngster might have an IQ of prodigious proportions, the public is quick to infer that he still isn't a mental adult, and thus the results are as likely to show potential as ability. I'll probably get out some standard texts like Terman's and write an analysis of the results, in any event -- unless the administrator can be talked into doing it; doubtlessly he's a good deal more qualified. (2160 Sylvan Rd., Springfield, Illinois)

GARY DIENDORFER: It is indeed a welcome thing that you are contributing to the Shadow FAPA, considering that you have produced as your first contribution a fanzine quite as stimulating as Warhoon. Let me applaud Charles Wells' column, a piece of work

I can call nothing less than elegantly written. Wells' return to actifandom is one of the most happy events of recent fannish years, as far as I am concerned. His comments regarding fanzines as extensions of the fans who produce them make good sense, along with his conclusions and suggestions therefrom, although I fear that I am just nasty enough a person to feel strongly tempted at times to make just such a comment on a fanzine like the Nosepicker's Digest as the type Charles deplores. By the way, Charles' comments regarding the attacks upon Seth Johnson are well-taken by me, and as one of the previous foremost proponents of Seth-Johnson-is-a-Cloddism, I might inform you that I intend to lay off the fellow from now on. The fact that I don't feel I have anything more to say regarding him is part of the reason, but a goodly portion of the rest is that Seth does, after all, have feelings and might possibly have felt bad reading some of my material directed at him. I intend from now on to consider well Charles Wells' wise statement that it is far wiser to attack ignorance instead of the ignorant when I feel tempted to publicly criticize, either directly or through the mode of parody or satire, such people as Seth Johnson. :: Wells' parody of John W Ghodbell, Jr. was a beautiful job. I am always appreciative of well-done parody, knowing full well how difficult it is to do really well. I look forward very much to more Wells in future copies of Serenade. (121 Boudinot St., Trenton 8, New Jersey)

DAVID G HULAN: The idea that a fanzine is an extension of the editor's personality has been discussed at least once before -- Dave Locke and I discussed it in personal correspondence over a stretch back three-four months ago. However, I don't recall having seen it discussed in print before, though the fact seems to me self-evident. Perhaps Wells' method of reviewing is best for faneds you don't know personally, since you can't tell whether or not they're sensitive. Anyhow, any criticism should be constructive unless the fan has demonstrated by his attitude that he has no intention of paying attention to such advice. Then is the time to lower the boom. After all, a fanzine review is supposed to be something besides egoboo and help for the faned -- it should also give some sort of guideline to other readers of the review who don't know of the fmz as to whether it's worth their while. A review such as Wells claims he writes, dwelling only on the good points, is no help in that respect -- if he can't bring himself to point out defects then he should ignore the zine entirely in public reviews and just write the faned a LOC. :: While reading "Amendment-Proposing Time Again" I was struck by the fact that Wells seemed to be proposing nothing that wasn't already covered in the Constitution already. A quick check revealed that he had done nothing but copy the 14th Amendment, or at least the first section thereof, verbatim. Pretty good play -- I wonder how many of your readers missed it? [I for one took him to task, pointing the same thing out and he replied, "Yes", that he knew it. The problem with Chuck is that he's too nice a guy; I don't read his stuff expecting irony and when something like this comes along I rise objecting only to discover half way through that a verbal knife has already been slipped between my ribs. You have to watch that Wells.--RB/ I really don't know what the problem is anyhow -- as far as I know there hasn't been a court case lost by Negroes protesting discrimination since the 1954 school desegregation decision. The problem isn't that the courts aren't deciding; the problem is that the Southern states are forcing individual case into the courts before they take any action, even though they know in advance what the decision will be. It gains time -- and every bit of time gained gives that much more time for the old die-hards to die off and the younger and more liberal Southerners to gain more voice. There are precious few of my generation down here who aren't convinced that segregation is on its last legs, though most of them wish it weren't. It would be political suicide for an Alabama politician to take any stand but a staunchly segregationist one, however he personally felt in the matter, because the older generation still controls things. These things take time -- but change is coming. Sitting here in the midst of it, I can see a tremendous change in the past ten years -- far more than the articles in the Northern press would have you believe. (228-D Niblo Drive, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.)

BETTY KUJAWA: Yes -- Fugghead award in Fanac poll -- uh huh -- too dern dangerous -- and not at all worth it. Now this is a destructive negative non-happy or non-good resulting type of thing. Considering harm to namee and namer alike...if it served a real valid constructive purpose...but it doesn't...the hurtfulness plus the liability of law-suits, nopt, leave it be dropped and forgotten. :: Especially when I see in KIPPLE that Breen used his inside info on who got votes to 'get back' at Dave Locke -- that was SO unfair -- I wrote to Ted of this and entreated him to forward my comments to Walter. :: Keep thinking that next time any of us disagree with Breen he may well come back at us using this hurtful way of reprisal...you know? As that poll never did get sent out and he, plus mebbe a few buddies, is the only one with der ammo -- well now. :: As of now I haven't much hope for more Fanac polls anyway. I did not send in my ballot to this latest one as I had never received the last years one..and I do think that is owed us who voted. Can't see giving more votes and information as to my opinions just for a select few to read and hear about -- and you, Mr Bergeron? /What time is it?--RB/ (2819 Caroline St., South Bend 14, Indiana)

TOM DILLEY: Somehow, I feel like a traitor. The Glenn flight, and all the rest, didn't affect me at all. I noted all the stir going on about me during the Glenn episode, wondered why I didn't really give a damn, and went back to catching up on infinite series, which had got ahead of me. This apathy of mine concerns me. I recall reacting much more strongly to the various stories written of space and orbital travel before the actual event, and possibly I should have been more impressed by the real thing if we had done it before the Russians. As it is, the fact that we were not able to do it first bothers me more than the fact that anyone is able to do it at all cheers me. Thus American manned trips mean nearly nothing, as far as I'm concerned. Maybe if we manage to get to the moon first...but I doubt we shall. What does impress me, though, and very greatly, is our program of putting up satellites which do something besides carrying someone around. Among these, the Tyros weather program catches my fancy, and even more, the planned communication satellites are most fascinating, especially since I followed with interest the early attempts at scatter transmission by use of meteors. The next thing I'm waiting to see is the development of the long-fabled "ray cannons", or maybe something along the line of the power transmission devices rather illy portrayed in stories like Leinster's "Power Planet", using masers, lasers, or something along that line. Indeed, the news that we had at last managed to build a continuous-beam optical maser (gaseous, I think) excited me far more than the news that we had finally got someone up there to keep the Russian company.

RB: Presented for comment from the October 21, 1961, issue of NATIONAL REVIEW: "Despite all these contradictions, and despite the fact that no non-Soviet observer has confirmed any of the material details concerning launch and recovery, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, July 22, accepted Moscow's claim to have orbited Gagarin. The FAI... validated the Gagarin feat after 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of wrangling, in which the Soviets refused to supply documentation beyond their own assertions. When pressed for details, the delegate from the USSR grew red in the face and replied angrily: 'Ask the American delegate if he believes that the Russians sent a missile to the moon and also does the USA doubt that these records claimed for Gagarin were actually made?' ... 'All the people of the world have already endorsed Gagarin's flight and have accepted it as a fact.' Here, it seems, was proof that Gagarin went into orbit. For reasons unknown, the FAI yielded to these arguments, and certified the flight. Now, of course, that certification is itself cited as proof that Gagarin went aloft -- further creating the 'acceptance' which is his principal claim to authenticity. :: In sum, there is little evidence that either Gagarin or Titov performed the wonders asserted by the Kremlin. And the free world's acceptance of them, as the FAI proceedings suggest, looks very much like an act of self-hypnosis with the aid of mirrors." I make no comment on this, at the present time, except to ask whether Eisenhower's voice coming from space should have been accepted as proof that he actually was up there?

SHORT CHANGE

I console myself for failing to have anything to say about the last Shadow mailing by blaming it on the fact that Serenade made up almost half of it. I suppose the most notable thing was the reappearance of Norm Stanley -- could you tell him that his fanzine collection is still being put to good use, Russ? With which we pass on to what promises to be a long set of comments on

HORIZONS -- Harry Warner: I read it SLIME everytime , too, but I never try to pronounce it. Who have you been saying "SILME" to, Harry? :: But doesn't the air that sneaks into the bottle when you uncap it also evaporate the correction fluid after the manner of \$10 an ounce perfume? :: I detest flashbulb photography, but the faults you cite in fan photography are typical of average amateur picture taking as a whole. Up until nine months or so ago my photography consisted of candid available light studies of a 7 year old brother. Then an opportunity for selling photographs came up and I promptly invested in a Hasselblad, a single lens reflex camera, and since that time the camera has paid for itself six or seven times over. I knew practically nothing about photography when I started playing with it and only mastered the Hasselblad and taught myself the mysteries of color photography with a trial and error technique that would have warmed the heart of an old survival-of-the-fittest buff like Heinlein. :: George Bernard Shaw would have thought highly of the fact that television lets you "watch a politician's mouth open and shut as he expounds his ideas", since he thought of radio as an X-Ray machine that would let you know whether or not they were telling the truth just by the sincerity or lack thereof in their voices. Personally I prefer to watch their hands -- especially if I'm in a crowd with them. :: Good as they are, these mailing comments of yours aren't a selling point for FAPA. For instance, if Wrhn were distributed through FAPA I could only expect the few lines of condensed comment you devote to each publication but now one of my favorite after-issue expectations is the two to three page discursive letter Harry Warner always sends. FAPA has its drawbacks. :: I rarely have dreams or rarely remember them but when I do they are usually of a realism and of such transparent symbolism that they've told me more about my deepest fears and hopes than I'd have ever guessed otherwise. :: If "FAPA is no longer operating under its constitution", there are recourses other than complaint. The only things that seem to have any effect in fandom are when someone actually sets out to accomplish them -- suggestions inspire more lethargy than this world dreams of. :: "What's Wrong With Horizons" is the most evil article I've ever seen in a fanzine! The information that HORIZONS is all composed on the stencil is a distressingly demoralizing revelation -- not to mention a tempting one. I imagine that it will entrench and further the habit in fandom. I know I thought seriously about trying it with this issue thinking that your results are so happy that if I could do half as well I'd have a very good issue, but I luckily came to my senses and realized that I don't have some 20 years experience in recording thoughts on paper. :: You hope that you won't be so influential "that everyone immediately begins to polish up all his writings until all traces of personality and spontaneity are invisible" but it's a vain fear -- merely by being different people we select words individually. I think selection and decision reveals personality in writing. On-stencil composition in the inexperienced usually reveals merely halitosis. The only reply I have room for to the idea that rewriting eliminates spontaneity would be to cite Burbee's comment that "truly spontaneous stuff, except for the material written by rather remarkable writers, is usually unreadable. Rather, strive for the effect of spontaneity. A noted French writer was asked how he ever managed to write such easy-flowing, sparkling, spontaneous humor. He replied seriously 'I rewrite every line fifteen times.' So much for spontaneity."

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 "Sometimes I wish we were two separate people"
