

SHORT ENOUGH TO BE INTERESTING #2

SHORT ENOUGH TO BE INTERESTING #2 comes to you from Eli Cohen, at 2920 Victoria Ave., Apt. 12, Regina, Sask. S4T 1K7, and I just noticed I left my name off the last one. Sorry about that, folks. It's not even as if I can claim to be the only fan in Saskatchewan, since Andy Porter claims to have an ALGOL subscriber in Regina. In any case, this is being published for Apa-Q 35+1.

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Well, gang, I know I shouldn't have done it, but I got #33, and not only were various people muttering about song parodies, there was even one foolish enough to doubt the seriousness of my intentions. (Tsk, tsk, Laurie Trask -- a WPSFAN should know better.) Therefore, without further ado, let me present:

WHAT DO THE NEOFANS DO

(As you'll recall, our hero, let's call him Arthur, is disconsolate because his cherished trufannish apa is being taken over by filthy pros and slightly dirty semi-professionals.. His girlfriend, call her Gwen, tries to cheer him up.)

Arthur: What do the neofans do
To help them escape when they're blue?
The hopeful who is failing, the fugghead who's a bum
The faned who's regaling a mailing of one
When they're upset and dismayed
Those whose reputations aren't made
What tricks and machinations improve their sorry lot
Oh what do neofans do, we do not?

Gwen: I have been informed, by one who still reads Stf
They find relief with quite a clever ploy
When they feel alone, they join the N3F
And run 'round saying "Goshwowboyohboy"
And that's what neofans do, to enjoy.

Arthur: (dubiously) "Boyohboy"?

Gwen: (shrugs) They enjoy.

(Music continues while they briefly try boyohboying.)

Arthur: What else do the neofans do
When they can't read a HYPHEN or GRUE?
The fringe fans and half-grown fans, the ones who worship pros
They must have anti-groan plans for known fans with woes
When all the egoboo wanes
What helps them to ward off the pains?
However do they manage to make their spirits glow
Oh what do neofans do, when they're low?

Gwen: Often, I am told, they light a potent weed
And smoke till they're completely uncontrolled
Soon the mind is blank, and all their cares recede
They reach a trance astounding to behold
And that's what neofans do, I am told.

Arthur: They smoke dope?

Gwen: So I'm told.

(Music continues while they try smoking dope, ending in a paroxysm of coughing.)

Before we return to tonight's special double feature -- "Rosemary's Baby" and "Young Man with a Horn" -- we pause for a brief commercial message from our sponsor, the Lady Macbeth Hand Laundry Company...

Arthur: What else do the neofans do?
They must have a system, by Ghu
With beanies and their blasters, have they some private rite
That might help Secret Masters' disasters take flight?
What Sense of Wonder do they
Retain ~~that~~ keeps them from dismay?
They have some vile debauch'ry you haven't mentioned yet
Oh what do neofans do, to forget?

Gwen: Once at a Worldcon, I came upon a lad
Who had a stack of books three times his size
When I asked him why, he told me he was sad
And reading SF made his spirits rise
And that's what neofans do, I surmise.

Arthur: (incredulously) Read SF?

Gwen: I surmise.

(Music continues as Arthur picks up a book and idly glances through it.
He reads: "One by one food and drink overcame the reveling princelings."
The music trails off on a sour note.)

Arthur: What else do the neofans do
To help them escape when they're blue?

Gwen: They sit around and wonder
What BNF's would do
And that's what neofans do

Arthur: Not really?

Gwen: I have it on the best authority. } (spoken)

Arthur & Gwen in duet: Yes, that's what neofans do.

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Comments on #33:

Patrick Hayden: I've had to, on occasion, use American stencils on a Canadian Gestetner. The problem is identical to that of using A.B. Dick stencils on a Gestetner; for the technique involved I am indebted to Herr Doktor Professor Johann Yarik Phriedrich Nebbish von Singer (also contains lanolin), who developed this in his famous laboratory at 601 Furnal (now a National Monument). Professor von Singer, unfortunately, has not been seen since his ill-fated attempt to cross a species of myxomycetes with a giant avocado, which resulted in the total destruction of Troy, NY.

Jon: You'll have to explain the above. I certainly can't.///Not only is it far too late to break my fingers, incitement to commit a musical is a non-extraditable offence according to current U.S. - Canada treaties. (Laughs maniacally.)

Doug Hoylman: "Sadder Budweiser Fan" -- Aarghh!///Gee, I dunno about "What do the Mundane folk do"; depending on the plot, there might not be a mundane world. Outside of Nova City, that is. I can't think of anything at all to do with "The 7 Deadly Virtues". "The Seven Numbered Fandoms"? Good luck, and if you are caught or killed, the OE will disavow all knowledge.

John Boardman: If, as some claim, astrology is a purely empirical "science", and if its conclusions are based principally on observations accumulated over the past few hundred years, there's no need to worry about precession of the equinoxes. Do you know how old the current character classifications are? Then there's the theory that any sufficiently complicated mystical system will enable a phsychnic practitioner to give an accurate reading (while others give a dud reading). I've seen hard-headed scientist-type Topher Cooper do some pretty scary things with Tarot cards. Not too useful for playing the stock market, though.

Gobrin Press Publication #14. January 1, 1976. HAPPY NEW YEAR!