

"So what's uncool or unfannish about what he's doing?" Didn't say that or mean that. All I'm saying is that it don't have nothin' to do with my being a fan.

There's a fair amount of Beta tapes in the rental stores out here, but not nearly enough. That's why we have both Beta and VHS. And every time I rent some tapes the clerk points out to me that I have a Beta or two in the stack of VHS tapes. "Yes, I have both formats." Occasionally I then get told that most people who check out both have merely screwed up, and then come back to plead for refunds, so they have made it a policy to point out when someone is checking out tapes in both formats.

Thanx for reprinting the letter from God. I thought He made a lot of sense. One of the first intelligent things I've read by Him.

Onward to your second zine. Knew you'd love THE PRINCESS BRIDE movie, because you have such good taste, of course. Have you read the book? A gift copy is available upon request. That's my shtick: I give away copies of THE PRINCESS BRIDE to those folk of presumed good taste who haven't yet encountered it. The offer stands for anyone in FLAP. Have only encountered two people who actively disliked it. Buck Coulson was one. Al Curry was the other, but I think he read some other book, forgot the title, and merely thinks he read THE PRINCESS BRIDE. Nothing else could explain why someone like Al Curry could dislike THE PRINCESS BRIDE. I may have to force him, at Jameson-point, to read it in front of me just to prove my thesis.

Gary means "hard spear"? Say, I'll bet you were proud when you heard the news.

I agree with you and David that we should stick with what science says about smoking. Last year the National Academy of Sciences came out with the statement that "Available scientific evidence does not show that smoking on the job or in public places, such as restaurants, jeopardizes the health of non-smokers." I think the assholes who are legislating localized smoking bans on the basis of the supposed, but not science-endorsed dangers of second-hand smoke, should be jabbed in the eyes with two fingers. What do you think?

You might also want to reread the extensive quotations on smoking which I published in the 46th mailing, from nobodies like past Surgeon Generals, the former head of the government's smoking and health research program, the chief statistician of the American Cancer Society, and a few others, before telling me again that "the Tobacco Institute and a few front outfits" are the only unconvinced on the subject of the dangers of smoking...

Shit, first they go for our liquor, and now they're trying to take away our tobacco... And, with AIDS, even fucking is getting unpopular. Well, hell, damned if I'll give up cussing...

By the way, I just realized that your comment to David Hulan was actually mislabelled. You were commenting to me throughout. I didn't realize that until you got to the comment about serial numbers on condoms... ("Wait a minute, that was me. David wouldn't talk about serial numbers on condoms...")

The joke about serial numbers on condoms goes like this: Did you know that condoms have serial numbers? No, I didn't. Well, you just didn't unroll them far enough. No, that wasn't it; the print was so stretched out I just couldn't read it.

Okay, you're on. You can sing your "Ballad of John Carter" to me. Hell, I've almost always "been drinking enough to appreciate it".

Bradbury novels. He ain't written many. Many presumed novels were only interconnected short stories, like THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES and THE ILLUSTRATED MAN, both of which I recommend. For short story collections, I recommend THE OCTOBER COUNTRY. Outside of those three, nothing much else impressed me.

Saw a BLACKADDER episode the other night, tuning it in by accident. Was so amusing we stayed with that channel. Great stuff. Totally off the wall.

Well, I certainly agree. Suzi is easy to feel comfortable around. Even when she's sitting in your lap. I also agree that I'm not sure I'd let her tie me up. Definitely I'm leery about getting in a canoe with her.

You said the same thing to Al about the neo-Nazi nuts as I did, and we were the only two who said that. That means something, but I'm uncertain what. Let's worry about it later.

Love your Lower Case photocopies. Purchased RED TAPE HOLDS UP BRIDGE and laughed myself catatonic. Haven't yet located the first collection: POLICE HELP DOG BITE VICTIM. Not listed in the reference materials in the stores which carry the second volume. Probably should write directly to the COLUMBIA REVIEW OF JOURNALISM.

Enjoyed both your zines, hugely. Keep doing this, whatever it is.

ROY TACKETT

HORT. Another "Herman" fan. I just purchased the latest "Treasury" and photocopied a dozen or so 'medical' cartoons to hang on one of my office walls. I put two types of things on my office walls: funny shit and reference materials. The funny shit includes Herman, Far Side, and The Neighborhood. The reference materials are boring but handy.

Hey, we've now got one of those "neat little plastic gadget(s) which cuts neat little pills into two neat little half pills". Hell of a lot easier than a chopping board and a cleaver, but it wasn't as easy to find. Sure is easier to use, though.

Yes, you're right in how to deal with the bureaucracy. Many of my company's members use that

If I don't get fucked up by an upcoming revised personnel policy, or by other circumstances, I'd like to make it back to the LArea in the near future. I've said that before. Something has always come up, and maybe something always will, but I still want to do it. Would like to take you two out to dinner one night. Deal?

I have an original copy of your zine. It bears a Post-It note speech-balloon on the Rotsler cartoon which says "Stapled but not collated, right?"

Woman hit by privy

Choate said four men were pushing a wooden outhouse mounted on four wheels when they lost control of it during the Outhouse Race, a featured event of the Trigg County Ham Festival on Saturday.

I don't believe in using 4-digit suffixes to 5-digit zip codes. That adds up to nine digits. Nine digits is the equivalent to a social security number, which is sufficient to identify a specific individual. I can envision the postal employee who encounters the additional four digits: "Goddamn! Do I forget this shit or do I go look up another reference?" Your mail arrives at the usual time or four days later.

Enjoyed all of it. It's a great pleasure to have you here, even if you turned out to be a computer freak after first appearing to be a soul brother.

On the subject of flagging tv shows to tape or to watch, my current method involves the use of a diary that I didn't want to receive. It was my Xmas present from ChoiceCare. The word-processed cover letter noted that this gift might serve to keep me from being late for meetings. I'm the only fucking person in the company who is never late for a meeting.

The diary was brought home. What use did we have for it? Wait a minute. The Discovery Channel magazine lists all shows for the next five weeks. Then there's a PBS magazine, and a TV Guide, and a Sunday tv supplement. Instead of trying to remember things further ahead than a week, wouldn't the diary prove useful? Damn betcha. All sources get logged to the diary. The diary is my guide to what I want to see and tape.

"Anything published without profit by a fan qualifies as a fanzine." Dead-nuts on. Bugs the crap out of me when someone, in some manner, refers to doing an apazine and also a fanzine. They mean that they do an apazine and either a genzine or a perzine, usually. A fanzine they do if they do any of those.

Agree wholeheartedly on the smoking issue. Too much smoke about it. Do we blindly accept the 'common wisdom' and support it without scientific validation -- indeed, with scientific invalidation -- or do we keep more of a skeptical and open mind on the subject? I'm for the latter. I see too much smoke. Too much bullshit. Too much acceptance on what has become a social issue rather than a scientific one.

Also agree with you about Bork. He was a bad idea, but not for the false reasons being touted by so many of our liberal friends. He was overplayed by the conservatives and lied about by the liberals. His strength was that he was willing to evolve and change his mind. His weakness was that he was willing to change his mind too often to call it evolving.

Right again: the 'Pit Bull' issue is bogged down in semantics and jargon and variations in breed. I think the term 'Pit Bull' came about because no standard jargon existed to acknowledge the mutt in question. It's a case of "that's what I mean when I point to it", because no other term exists. I think

the mutt in question should become extinct in the next three minutes. Regardless of what the fuck anyone wants to label it as. It's deadly to any human being or any other pet, it serves no food chain purpose or any other natural purpose, it has no redeeming characteristics or even any vaguely positive characteristics, and I think they should be wiped out of existence. No doubt if the alien in ALIENS really existed, someone would want to defend keeping one as a pet. I view 'Pit Bulls' on exactly the same level. They're a hazard to society on the baldest level, have nothing in their favor, and should be viewed on about the same level as germ warfare.

However, the 'Pit Bull' is a human idiocy, not a fault of the animal. It was bred for a specific purpose, not for a household pet. People who keep a Pit Bull in today's civilization are like children playing with loaded guns.

MARTY HELGESEN

Yes, I think Goetz got a raw deal, too. I'm just not too certain it can all be charged off to "liberal establishment political views". To me, it should have been obvious to everyone that Goetz did the right thing based on the subsequent actions of the people he reacted against (except for the one who couldn't get out of the hospital bed, they all went on to other crimes and got caught). I think it can be charged off to people who: 1. can't place themselves in the situation that Goetz faced, 2. are fearful that a Goetz-imitator/Death Wish-type could kill innocent people and therefore self-protection shouldn't be encouraged or we'd have a helluva mess to sort out in the courts and would be fearful of anyone who exercises the right to bear arms, 3. saw his adrenalin-surge in shooting the one fellow a second time and stupidly imagined that this invalidated the whole concept of him protecting himself, and 4. feel that responding to threats of violence with the use of violence isn't something that most people would do and therefore it's somehow wrong. I think your label is wrong because it's too simple and doesn't capture the reality, but otherwise I agree with you.

"To comment further on your remarks about knowledge and faith in God would take us back to a discussion we've been through before." No, it would take us back to a point we reached before, at which point you copped out. It would take us back to a logical point beyond which you can't go. You won't agree, perhaps, but that's the way I see it. Being a pivotal point in any discussion between an agnostic and a religionist, unless we can go "through" it I have no interest in backing up or trying to go around it.

If you get the cleanup to the point of having old apazines ready to mail, one set for this household

is fine (Jackie & I both expressed interest, but I don't want you to think that two sets are requested).

I don't care for the Cosby spinoff, DIFFERENT WORLD, either, but the first one was definitely the worst of the three I've bothered to at least partly watch. I watched the first and one other, and saw some of a third. Not my type of show, but the first was really poor. Not too many disagree here, but many disagree when I say that HOOPERMAN and THE SLAP MAXWELL STORY strike me as the same quality.

Thanx for the weird face.



LON ATKINS

Ah, the mystery novel. Because of crossover writers such as Fredric Brown and John D. MacDonald and Wilson Tucker I developed a taste for mysteries, and the older I got the more taste I had for them and the less I had for skiffy. Today I'd rather pick up a Robert B. Parker, Harry Kemelman, Brian Garfield, Donald E. Westlake, Gregory McDonald, Rick Boyer, or reread a John D. MacDonald or Wilson Tucker or Fredric Brown or Ross MacDonald than pick up a skiffy novel. I'll still reread science fiction by Fred Brown or Eric Frank Russell, but new books that I rush out to buy are written by people like William Goldman, Joseph Wambaugh, Robert B. Parker. The closest to that list among the current producing SF writers is Arthur C. Clarke. (Wilson Tucker isn't doing it any more. I kept hoping there'd be another novel with Gilgamesh -- THE TIME MASTERS and TIME BOMB seemed like two parts of a trilogy...) (Hint, hint.)

The source books you're using in your mystery writing class sound interesting, except that two of them are by John Gardner. John Gardner is to Ian Fleming what Lyn Carter is to Robert E. Howard. Makes my gorge rise. I'd as soon read one of these as I would read a book by Lyn Carter on how to write heroic fantasy...

The class sounds interesting, but the bigger message is between the lines. I take it that work and health are not going well, and I'm sorry to hear that. Being in the same situation adds a touch of adrenalin to the empathy... Hang in there. Don't let the bastards grind you down.

Best to Julie.

The Sweet Please Casserole sounds good. My recipe this mailing is to fly out to Cincinnati and join

us for dinner at Garcia's of Scottsdale. Scarf up on some excellent Mexican food and margaritas.

MIKE SHOEMAKER

You have found something seminal in turning up a reference to "science fiction" which antedates by 22 years the supposed Gernsback coinage. Time to think seriously about the best place(s) to address a well-written piece detailing this discovery. Fuck the skiffy newszines. You can do better than that with the pro publications. Go for it.

BECKY CARTWRIGHT

You've turned into a convention fan, by golly. That being the case, I hope to see you at the next Midwestcon. For that matter, I think you'd hugely enjoy Octocon. Show up for both. I always enjoy your presence because it's nice to have someone around who's shorter than I am, plus maybe sometime you'll even buy me lunch again.

SUZI STEFL

Well, happy holidays to you, too.

Good to hear that you're working your way out of a high-stress period. I'm right in the middle of one. Went to a management meeting today that gave everyone a case of the galloping fidgets. Afterwards, three of us tested our thumbs on one of those 'stress' credit cards that supposedly change color to indicate (I'm guessing at remembering the specific categories) High Stress, Moderate Stress, Mild Stress, Normal, and Relaxed. The other two were Moderate or High. I came out Relaxed. "Damn card lies" I said. Actually I'm just more phlegmatic...

JONI STOPA

Joni, Joni, Joni... (Read that in my Cary Grant imitation.) If you're going to phony up a FAPazine to make it look like a FLAPzine, you gotta do more than change FAPA to FLAP in the colophon. Especially when the first four words of the natter are "Hi there, Art Widner". Well, I suppose we could have rushed out and invited Art Widner to membership in FLAP...

I've heard from many that the worldcon in England was the pits, and here you are adding to that. You blame Greg Pickersgill. Wasn't there, so I dunno, but certainly while he was a guest here in the states he made an asshole of himself. For years he has made an asshole of himself. Guess there's no particular reason to change. Change is always so unpleasant.

BEEDEE ARTHURS

Well, that's two people I know who have sold a story to the first issue of MZB'S FANTASY FORUM. You and, if my margin note is to be believed, Mary Frances Zambreno with VAMPIRE AND THE PICKPOCKET STORY. Hope that margin note is right. I made it

some time ago and am now interpreting it...

Congrats on reaching the "3-story threshold". Good luck on attaining the next threshold ("sell to some other editor in the field").

I could only sell to MZB under a pseudonym. The last words she spoke to me, back in the mid '60s, were "hello, you bastard". Come to think of it, those are the only words she has said to me.

Aw, come on. Come on out for a Midwestcon. Ask Becky. Travel out here with her. We can introduce you to such exotic specialties as the Cincinnati edition of Garcia's Of Scottsdale.

BILL BOWERS

No, you weren't in the 49th mailing, but I wanted to say howdy in case you really do show up in the 50th. Welcome back. Nice to see your typeface again.

Even with some occasional significant gaps between issues, it's amazing to me that you get out issue after issue of OUTWORLDS. I used to be able to do that, back when I was in my twenties and thirties. Now we're both less than a year apart in age and I can't do that anymore yet you seem to get better at it. Hell, I can't even complete writing assignments within deadlines anymore. And the older I get, the less I find to write about. Are you getting younger or am I aging more rapidly, or both?

Hell, I can't even get motivated to put out the next issue of TIME AND AGAIN. FLAP and a four-way corro with Glicksohn and Curry and Skel, plus your incessant pleas for material, are about all I can handle. Anything more would interfere too much with my drinking. Perhaps it's time to give all this up, join FAPA, and die. Well, that's the way it used to be. Arthur now tells me that FAPA is different. Not this August.

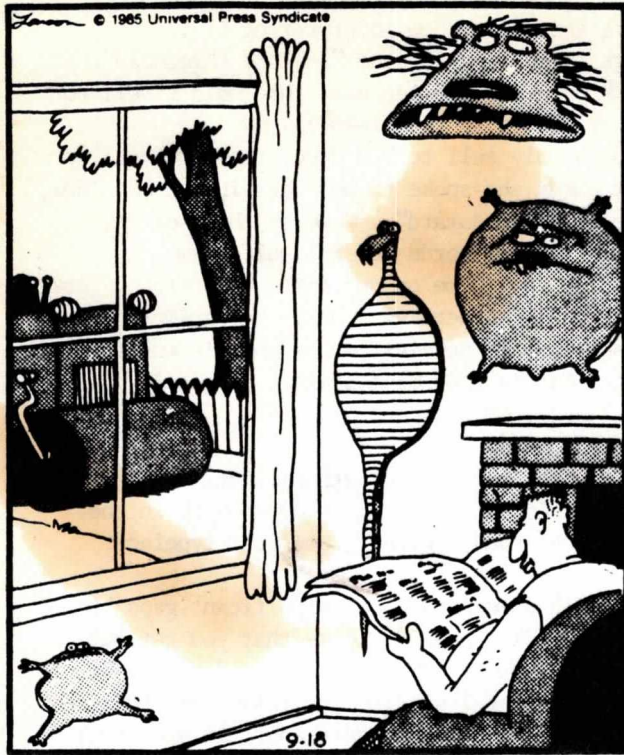
Bye, Bill. Glad you're back. And if you don't show up, no more rum for you.



Well, time to wind this down. I've said everything I have to say about the mailing except to express my appreciation for Bob Tucker's enthusiasm to do covers and bacovers. Of course, Bob has disappointed me by turning into just another computer freak, but he's doing his best to make amends. And doing pretty good, too. I figure he'll have balanced the account by our 100th mailing, for which he'll not only contribute covers and his own zine, but write all of ours, as well. This will ensure 100% participation.

The OEs, at their own expense we hasten to add, have sent out pocsards reminding the missing that we really want to see them all in the 50th. Why the OEs have this fixation on perfect attendance for at least one mailing is hard to understand. Maybe because it's just never been done. Hope to see you all. Cheeries.

The Far Side



THE REASON WHY DAVE
LOCKE WEARS ALPINE HATS



"I knew we had a lot in common. We
belong to the same narrow
special interest group!"



CURRY

BY JIM UNGER

HERMAN

IF THERE IS INTELLIGENT LIFE IN
OUTER SPACE, WHY DON'T THEY
CONTACT US?



VERY ADVANCED LIFE FORMS WOULD
USE SOMETHING MUCH FASTER AND MORE
SOPHISTICATED THAN RADIO SIGNALS.



LIKE
WHAT?



THOUGHT.



WHERE DO YOU
GET ALL THESE IDEAS?

