

# STUNNED MULLET

A Journal of the Arts



STUNNED MULLET - the voice  
of Finnish Fandom - is published when  
least expected by John Bagshaw  
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for members of FAPA and ANZAPA

NUMBER ONE

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26 April: Why (he said) - why on earth another new fanzine? You've already started one new fanzine this year, and look what happened to that! After only one issue! Aha (I said), there you just about have it. I (I said) shall explain all. And I did. As follows:

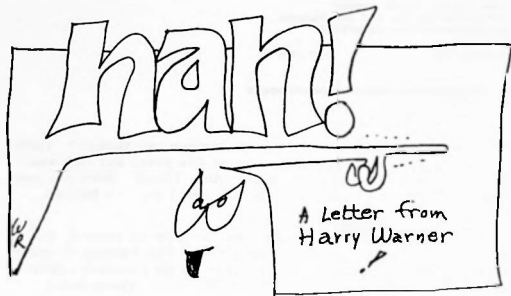
#### THE FAPA CONNECTION

has for the past year seemed rather tenuous. For the record, the last mailing I received was that for May 1974. The Fantasy Amateur was missing from the bundle. About August Leigh Edmonds kindly informed me that I had won the FAPA Egoboo Poll. There was a strange (how shall I say?) je ne sais quoi lilt in his voice as he informed me of this. As though it made up for his winning DUFF - something like that. Or us though, if he were not my best friend in fandom, he could easily get to dislike me. It's a fascinating lilt that, and one not easily nor quickly mastered; a lilt, moreover, not always recognized for what it is (let me tell you!). About the same time I won the Anzapoll, which might have had something to do with the way Leigh sounded.

In ANZAPA (dear FAPA readers) we have no need for a President. The omnipotent official is the OBE. When ANZAPA started, we had an Official Editor, like any other decent apa. Then some clown suggested we change the title to Official Bloody Editor, just so John Foyster could sign himself J. Foyster OBE, and that's the way it has been ever since. John and Leigh (both sometime members of SAPS) believe strongly in the SAPS dictum that the OE is Ghod - and thus it is in ANZAPA. But we have a President. We have had an egoboo poll all along. One night at the laundromat in Glen Eira Road, Leigh, Paul Stevens and I whiled the wash away by rewriting the ANZAPA Constitution. Rather brilliantly (I thought at the time), I decided that we should have a President. The President would be the winner of the Anzapoll. His duties would be (a) to conduct the following year's poll, and (b) to set an example to other members.

I would commend the system to FAPA, but for one thing: in all the years since only three Presidents (I think, offhand) have remained members of the apa long enough to conduct the poll. Leigh discovered sex, as I recall; David Grigg gaffiated temporarily; Bruce Gillespie went overseas. I am ready, nay willing, to stand corrected, but I think Leigh, David and Bruce have been President of ANZAPA in the years when I was not. This year is my third time round (I think). One grows old, one grows old, one shall mail the bundles rolled...

But I started out to talk about FAPA, and I shall, sans fear nor favour. I had a letter from Harry Warner a few days ago, and... Crikey! That means I can use this Rotler illo I've had lying round for years!



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HARRY WARNER Jr      Welcome to the club of people who don't know what is going on in FAPA. First, my own qualifications for membership: Some time early in March, I got a telephone call from Elmer Perdue. This was so unexpected that I instantly assumed Ackerman was dead, the only conceivable reason I could imagine for a call from Elmer. So I was relieved to learn that it was FAPA, not Ackerman, which seemed to be dead. Nobody on the West Coast had received the mailing that was supposed to have gone out early in February. Elmer told me... He wanted to know what to do and he sounded as if he'd already decided what to do, drink a fatal quantity of confu, because he was so proud of a FAPazine that he had submitted for that bundle.

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A good trufannish death, Elmer: one stands quietly humble at the aptness of it.

Harry went on to detail his qualifications for the above-mentioned membership, but I shall spare you. (Also, he asked me to spare you.) From his letter I gathered that I am still a member of FAPA, that I had 64 pages in the February mailing and that I owe no dues. I am happy about that at least. Such basic information I have been trying to get from various people for some months. Thank you, Harry.

#### GETTING TO THE POINT:

Since January I have published First Draft 1 and Philosophical Gas 29-30. PG 31 is well in hand. None of these will be circulated through FAPA, but I would like you to see them if you are interested, and I have held some copies back for that purpose. Unless your name is

Berry, Boggs, Bowers, Glicksohn, Jeeves, Katz, Luttrell, Porter, Speer, Tackett, Warner or Wood, you will not receive these things without asking for them.

First Draft contained mainly rambling comments on Australian journalism. Some people liked this stuff. PG29 included Professor Meredith Thring on 'the Creative Society'; George Turner on Aldiss, Frankenstein and others; Bert Chandler on Aldiss, Haggard and others; a short story by Phillip Adams; John Alderson on the last meeting of the Bet Bet Church of Christ; and other great stuff. PG30 contained John Berry's DisCon Report; John Litchen on Hugo Correa; a kind of story by Ken Ford; and lots of letters.

With PG31 I will be changing the format. I'm going offbeat, at long last, and Stunned Mullet 1 is a kind of dry run for the new process. Forgive me if Philosophical Gas doesn't look as good as Algol right off: I'm new to this game.

#### GETTING BACK TO THE POINT:

During March Leigh Edmonds and I were speaking of this and that, and Leigh happened to inquire what I had done for ANZAPA lately. In PG30 I noted this, and replied: about 70 pages since January. This is true in the sense that I have sent each issue to members of ANZAPA, and in the larger sense that I publish only for my friends, that my closest friends in fandom are mostly in ANZAPA or FAPA, and that these are the people I mostly have in mind whenever I publish anything. But it is not true in Leigh's sense. I have not done anything lately specifically for ANZAPA, except some cover art for the mailings.

I will go on publishing Philosophical Gas with ANZAPA and FAPA in mind, and occasionally you will see it in the mailings, but in future my main contribution to both apas will be the present publication. I haven't written any mailing comments for ages, and the format of PG doesn't lend itself to them, so... So here's a new fanzine, jam-packed with mailing comments and bright witty fannish chat of an informal nature. I mean, it will be, when I get round to writing that stuff.

I said I would explain all, didn't I. That was it.

#### THE COVER

of this issue features a drawing by Liz Kinnaird. I have used it before, yes. I shall probably use it again. I got out of touch with Liz not long after I moved to Canberra. If this catches up with you, Liz, please accept it as an invitation to resume contact.



ERIC LINDSAY is nothing less than incredible ANZAPA mailing 43 arrived in these parts on 14 April. On 21 April Eric sent me four pages of mailing comments which he had already printed for the 44th mailing. What courtesy! What an inspiration to us all! What madness! Anyway .

MAILING COMMENTS : ANZAPA 43 - APRIL 1975

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN: Congratulations, Bill Wright, on not being voted OBE. It's a thankless task. Retiring OBE Foyster appointed me (unofficially) Official Cover Artist. I have so far received no such appointment from the incoming OBEs - Messrs Ashby, Ashby and Ford - so if there is no Official Cover on the Official Organ for mailing 44 it's all their fault. John Berry's address (I wonder whether Ted White is sick of getting John's mail) is 1749 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 USA. We have 17 members, of whom three live at the same address. The Constitution allows for 25 members. I gather that John Foyster has tried to get us some new members - and the presence of John Berry, Jan Flinder, Mervyn Barrett and Jean Jordan would seem to indicate that he succeeded up to a point. Keep up the good work, Ashbys and Ford, and if you need some new people to send sample mailings to, you know you have any number of members to fall back on for recommendations. But please (I've said this so often before that it seems utterly futile) try to get us a regular New Zealand member, if only to justify our name. John found Richard Mason, who joined but never actually got round to contributing anything.

DON ASHBY Leigh told me the story about the cops who came into your place to investigate the matter of the Australian flag flying upside down over your loo, but he seemed to tell it better than you wrote it here. We must ask Leigh to write the story about the RSL flag which for a time decorated the bathroom at Bundalohn Court (presumably Leigh and Val still have the flag), and we'll see how his story compares with yours ::: Improved reproduction this issue merits comment, if nothing else.

MIKE O'BRIEN: Every time you write about yourself, Mike, as you do here, I feel I know you better. Your reviews are useless to me - but that goes for just about everyone's reviews of just about everything, so don't feel bad about that. Maybe I have a good feeling about your writing about yourself because usually when you do it I manage to get a mention somewhere, but generally, whether I am mentioned or not, I prefer to read about the background and daily experiences of my friends than their considered opinions on cruddy paperbacks which I am most unlikely to read anyway. This issue of Van Diemen's Fan is something of a collectors item, Mike - for me anyway. Thanks.

ERIC LINDSAY: Thank you for that quote from Rochefoucauld: 'Before we passionately desire anything which

another enjoys we should examine as to the happiness of its possessor. It's almost a rule for everyday life - except that 'passionately desire' should be replaced by the word 'acquire'. :: You have been reading some good books lately, haven't you? You and that Bruce Gillespie fellow have been quoting from the most unexpected sources recently. Good luck to youse, I say. Doc Smith - nay, not even Tom Disch nor Jorge Luis Borges - is not enough for the well-rounded fannish mind, and I would envy your Long Evenings with Great Authors if I hadn't enough to fill my long evenings already. I'm glad you've discovered George Orwell. If you keep up this rate we'll soon have a lot to talk about. Do you have the four-volume Penguin edition of Blair's letters and articles? :: Your comments on using stencils reveal the essential difference between us. You are relatively wealthy, young Eric, what with your gorgeous two-storey house in the Blue Mountains and your trips overseas and all. It would be easy to envy you, and up to a point I do. You say that however a stencil turns out, you print it. Maybe that's your secret. I probably have fifty stencils around this house which I have never run off. I have mounds of paper as testimony to stencils which I have run off, regretted, and not published. I almost believe that you might subscribe to the old theory of 'waste not, want not'. This kind of life-style is alien to me. [I] probably never be rich. :: Only unmarried fans can write 140 letters every three months, and even then they have to be very very dedicated. I salute you. :: Ambrose Bierce is a marvellous discovery for a certain kind of young mind - yours and mine, for instance - but one grows tired of him eventually. Cynicism doesn't serve as any kind of guide to living, ultimately. Mind you, even at my advanced age Bierce can be a source of great delight - probably even at Bill Wright's advanced age! The trick is learning what is delight and what is a guide to living. Without further comment on your almost unparalleled contribution to ANZAPA lately, Eric, I would say that you are learning the trick. I am happy for you.

JOHN BANGSUND: PG 30 leaves much to be desired. Page 17 justifies your habit of discarding stencils: an atrocious bit of tortured prose and inept thinking there. The rest isn't up to much either, except the bits you didn't write.

JOHN FOYSTER: Your extended comments (do they constitute a review under the Terms of the Act?) on WATERSHIP DOWN make me feel less guilty about not reading the book. Ghod help me, I think I'm beyond enjoying books about talking animals. :: Sally and I like Warrnambool. It's the kind of place we would like to live in. Maybe you didn't see much of it. :: I appreciate your remarks on the Congressional Record. You told me more on the phone than you've said here, though. Since some readers think I am employed on the Australian counterpart of the Congressional Record, do you think we should (between us) provide some kind of comparative study? No hurry. :: Your sentence about my ANZAPA covers cheered me up no end. Cut off from everyone, as I am here, I don't really know what people think about the things I do, so I'm glad you have liked the rotten drawings and things I've sent you. :: Thank you, John, for an excellent year of ANZAPA under your official-bloody-editorship.

BILL WRIGHT: Bill, your poems are ghastly, really! But I must applaud the last lines of your latest rotten offering: 'And then, with patience infinite / Teach the buggers how to write!' That, I reckon, is roughly what fanzines in general and apazines in particular are all about. But only you could say so in verse! (If FAPA only knew what it was in for, it would have voted you off the waiting list and into membership years ago.) Only you could write half a page about the deepest significance of the cover I flung together for ANZAPA in December. Only you could write that brilliant summary of my story, 'Da capo al fine'. You have a very special insight and a very special imagination, Bill. Perhaps they are the same thing. Whatever this gift is that you have, you have it, and I envy you. Seriously. George Turner wrote to me about my 'story' and he convinced me (without any kind of persuasion on his part, I should mention) that I should not publish it. I am content. I would not have been content, though, if you had not read the story and said what you did about it. Thank you. All the people I want to read that story have now read it; I have had their comments; and I am content. ::: The adjective from 'archetype' is archetypal, I reckon. (What do you say, Judge Speer?) ::: Lots to talk about here, Bill, but I've been summoned to table and must desist. If you don't get top marks for mailing comments in any apa you ever join, there ain't no justice. At your advanced age you know even better than I do that there ain't no justice. Good luck anyway.

Space (not to mention Sally's patience, bless her) is running short. What else is in this mailing?

DERRICK ASHBY: Thanks for forgiving me.

LEIGH EDMONDS: The first issue of Sugar Tooth I've seen with nothing to comment on. (What have you done lately for ANZAPA?) Forget I asked. Thanks for the historic reprints

DEL & DENNIS STOCKS: 24 pages of great stuff. I've said it before, I'll say it again: you two should be in FAPA! I enjoyed Osiris immensely, and I would be happy to publish the kind of stuff you two come up with, but I have no comments. You need a wider audience, really! Frank Bryning interviewing William Golding is something all fandom would enjoy reading - just as I enjoyed it. But what can I say? I publish Ken Ford and get a Hugo nomination; you publish William Golding and get - what? - this kind of non-comment. There ain't no justice! (see above) Can I have reprint rights? What is your circulation?

One grows tired.

Thank you, John Snowden, Mervyn Barrett, Paul Anderson and John Foyster, for the contributions to ANZAPA 43 which I haven't commented on. I'll try to do better in future, but life is short and Tyrrell's Hunter River Dry Red Vat 13 1973 is so... so what? ... so influential, one might say, right now.

See you,  
JLB.