

STUNNED MULLET

Number Six : May 1977

is published by John Bangsund
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Australia, for FAPA mailing 159 and ANZAPA mailing 56, and maybe others.



5 May A letter from Jack Speer. My sins forgiven, welcome back to the flock. Ah, the relief! Thank you, all you good people who signed the petition to keep me in FAPA, and thank you, especially, Bob and Peggy Rae, for organizing it. My condolences to Marc Ortlieb and other wait-listers for holding your entry into FAPA back a notch.

In a way it was almost worth being chucked out just to see all the nice things some of you said about me. But once is enough, and I promise not to let it happen again. I like this graveyard, dammit!

Kindly old Waste-Not-Want-Not Judge Speer appended to his official note some mailing comments on the issue of Stunned Mullet that I sent him, and that should appear in this mailing, if the Post Office has been kind, 'thereby saving Synapse the paper used in comments to Bangsund'. You'd almost think he wrote nothing else in Synapse. I don't know whether this will be a First For FAPA, but if all goes well you should have in this mailing SM5, Jack's comments on it, and my comments on his comments -- a process that normally takes at least nine months. To make him feel at home, Jack's comments are in Dual Gothic.

If "Damn you, Jackus, I'll write us some" seemed more meaningful, I'd be satisfied with it. Anyway, I don't think you've said anything in Latin. ::: True, I haven't. I pinched the fake-Latin tag from a comic strip by Barry Horner. (Instant uproar in fandom! Bangsund admits to reading comic strips! Yes, but only if they're by Horner or Trudeau.) I took it to mean 'Damn you, Jack, I'm all right' -- and oddly, I didn't connect Jacus and you until some time after I'd collated the issue. Ah, the deep wells of the mind!

What does it have to do with science fiction? Well, if there is an aorist pluperfect, it's probably the only way to describe accurately certain temponautical situations, such as that in The Legion of Time, in which the fatal error is not only over and done with, but also beyond recall by any temponautical means. (I don't believe a word of it, but Williamson apparently did.) ::: I'm not prepared to say that there is or is not an Aorist Pluperfect. Like God, Santa Claus and the authorship of Shaksper's plays, it's too big and too important a matter for my tiny mind (cosmic though it has become in some respects since I entered fandom) to cope with decisively.

I guess there is no absolute reason why there shouldn't be a verb "out". I don't know what thumping the umpire is, but what especially attracted my attention about this is the use of "umpire" in a football game. Here, the principal official in football (also boxing &c) is called a referee, "umpire" being largely restricted to baseball and

tennis (genteel games), though i seem to recall "line umpires" filling some function in football. ' ' Why invoke Theodore Sturgeon? :: Why not? Everyone else does. On this occasion, though, because I couldn't help recalling his treatment of this subject in *Some of Your Blood*. Let's see now: we have umpires in Australian Rules Football, netball and cricket, referees in boxing, soccer (I think) and job applications. I don't know much about sport, actually; you'd better check with Foyster for the rest. 'Thumping', in this context, means assaulting in a physically violent manner. For me there is an absolute reason for not having, or not using, the verb 'to out', and it is simply that we already have the verb 'to oust', and if that is not sufficient, there are various ways of saying 'to stand down'.

I am suspicious of acronymic explanations, like the one you cite for wog, and the one for posh that got into an Albuquerque paper's answer column. :: Me, too, but 'wog' seems to have more going for it than most. I haven't heard such an explanation for 'posh'. Oxford says 'slang, 1918'. Halliwell's *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words* (7th edition, 1924) says 'A great quantity. West((moreland))'. 'Pish' is definitely acronymic, but like 'Wasp', is quite recent. I really don't know about 'Known as male prostitute' for 'camp', nor 'Prisoner of His Majesty' for 'pom'. How would you describe a name such as Pakistan, which, rightly or wrongly, until this minute I have understood to be a made-up name, using the initial letters of its main territories and adding 'istan'? (Chambers's *Geographical Dictionary* says Pakistan means 'holy land', so maybe I've been misled all these years.) (Did you hear the one about Canberra being renamed Whitlamabad in 1972? No? I guess you didn't miss much.)

I have now dug up the Synapse you were commenting on, so i'll understand something of what i'm quoted as saying. (The bicer bit, folks! Heh heh!) No, "Don't flog to the wogs" was on a signboard in Algeria, i believe. Flog must be such standard Australian that Baker didn't think it worth mentioning in his book.

Both "pre-FER-ably" and "con-TRO-versy" are unknown to the *Pronouncing Dictionary of American English*, which is my ultimate authority, except when i disagree with it. I've never heard the latter. I think i have heard the former, and would prefer it, because - Fowler to the contrary notwithstanding - i can't abide more than two unstressed syllables together. I notice that you Anglo-Australians would avoid that result by dropping a syllable, in "PREF-ruh-bly", which is the first of two pronunciations given in the PD AE. We always stress the VER in controversy. :: And I prefer Fowler, except when I disagree with him.

Why does Rotsler's rain miss the pyramids? :: Dunno. I'll ask him, if I remember, when he passes this way in July.

ROTSLER IN ADELAIDE? THE MIND BOGGLES! True, though.

Trouble is, if you don't provide people with epicene pronouns, they'll draft the plurals to serve the same purpose. I do not refer to "madam chairperson", but to a description by an eighthgrade classmate of another eighthgrader which, to preserve sexual ambivalence as well as anonymity, read "they have...", and to the now widespread use of "their"

in the singular, as in 'Any employee wishing to take their annual leave...' ::: It almost seems a lost cause, but I maintain that 'him', 'he' and 'his' are perfectly appropriate in such a sentence as 'Everyone has his own ideas, and may express them as he will, whatever one may think of them or of him.' The use of the plural-singular is ignorant and cowardly, except when it is just ignorant (e.g. Nation Review headline two weeks ago: HOW THE RULING CLASS STAY WHERE THEY ARE).

I suppose if Kyabram becomes populous, they'll change its name to Kyabraham. ::: That esau-fully cryptic, Jack. Isaac-tually not sure whether sarah lot of, ur, hidden meaning, or whether it israelly quite straightforward. (Can't keep this up! Anyone with a good pun on Jacob is welcome to it. Glicksohn?)
We are climbing Jacob's ladder;/As we ascend the puns get badder.

No particular reason, except the American language. ::: That was in response to my question 'Do you have any particular reason for spelling spelt "spelled"?' Jack continues for fourteen lines, and I accept his argument completely. So there.

ktp is kaj tiel plu. If you had a Fancyclopedia II you'd know that. ::: Okay. Now I know what ktp stands for. Great. But what does kaj tiel plu mean?!

"Keats had kept one of his most favourite records". When another classmate used to say "more better", I assumed it was his parents' Yiddish background - strike that. The question is whether this is one of the absolutes that can be compared. ::: I just knew you'd pick on that! No, I can't justify it at all. It comes of writing Keats & Chapman anecdotes directly on stencil. I should have said 'most treasured' or something.

Jack goes on to comment on Philosophical Gas 35, but since most FAPAns won't see that until the August mailing (and not even then if I don't get it in the mail in the next few days), I'll reserve his comments until later.

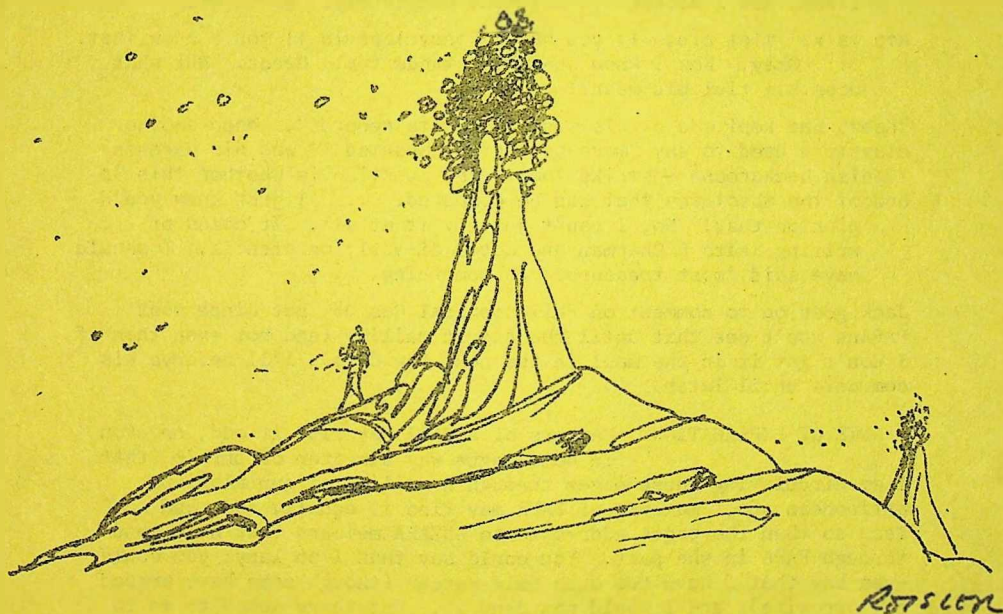
A NOTE OF EXPLANATION Members of ANZAPA may find it odd, or even in some vague way sinister or unfair, that I am circulating these pages through a mailing of our glorious antipodean apa. Members of FAPA may find it equally odd, and not less so than the pages addressed to ANZAPA members that have gone through FAPA in the past. You could say that I am lazy; you could even say that I have too much self-esteem (though some have argued the opposite); and I would not deny it. But there seems to me to be some good purpose in addressing FAPA and ANZAPA at the same time and without distinction, if only because so many FAPAns are more than passingly interested in Australian fandom (of which, naturally, ANZAPA represents the cream), and because the best ANZAPAns seem to end up in FAPA anyway, and might as well know now what they are in for.

The main thing I am publishing for ANZAPA that does not appear in FAPA is *The ANZAPA Book*, an outline history of ANZAPA since its foundation in 1968. Interested FAPAns should write to me.

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*Wherein Bill Rotsler wins DUFF, and others
who deserve no worse fare no better*