

# SYNAPSE

---

Published for FAPA 118 by Jack Speer, 1301 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque NM

---

## DENDRITES

The imp of the perverse is always plotting against my fanac.

At the end of the holidays, i was ready to start to work on my new year's resolution to write to Ted Pauls. But the job of catching up with Kipple was formidable, and i found myself turning instead to reading that could wait forever, like Rumor Fear & M of C, and Machines That Built America. Or i would duck out to some meeting like the first of the Grass Roots Democrats since Cargo was elected governor as a Republican. There, by the way, i found myself sitting next to Roy Tackett; he joined at the first Grass Roots meeting he attended, probably taking a melancholy pride in always choosing the losing side.

The pressure of necessity eventually overcomes the imp, and as deadline drew near, i put aside the Kipples and bore down on reading the mailing. This worked out so it threatened to leave me with a margin of safety, so i seized every excuse to watch television (second part of The Twenty-First Century, To the Moon, with Isaac Asimov), go to NMCLU, Great Decisions, usw.

Saturday evening Leon Hale crossed up the imp by offering mimeo and collation facilities that would drastically shorten repro time. All i had to do was get the stencils cut over the weekend. Fighting to the last, the imp made me start late Sunday, and go to bed only four hours into Monday with half a dozen stencils yet to go. This meant coming to Scout headquarters later Monday night than we would otherwise have done, but now the job is all but wound up. Aroint thee, Imp!

Mimeoing and bacover caricature by Leon Hale, who has also obtained free tickets for the club to see Fahrenheit 451 next weekend. What a good man. He asks me to explain that he did the drawing while i was looking down at my typewriter. I called it a caricature before seeing it; shall i upgrade it to "sketch", Leon?

Ed Cox, you may doodle in the space on page 16 where i intended Leon to draw a houndog.

---

Mailing 117 Epimetheus	2
Se Dice	14
The Leader Squeaks	16
Prolog for a Story by Redd Boggs or Bill Donaho	17

---

# EPIMETHEUS

## CELEPHAIS

Egad, a 14-story tower in that peaceful village of Gaithersburg.

Dick, Bill says "...the dame leading the halt" goes back to the "lame leading the halt". The latter has a biblical sound--King Jamie had references to the lame and the halt--but if Cruden's Concordance may be trusted, there is nothing in the Bible about the lame leading the halt. There is something about the blind leading the blind.

## RAMBLING FAP (Calkins)

ktp = kaj tiel plu = and so forth.

"If the inheritance is in the form of property upon which the father has been paying taxes annual or otherwise then the heir should and will continue paying such taxes but I don't believe he should also be taxed for the privilege of doing so" i e, inheriting. Well, you've restated your position, Gregg, but you haven't said anything in justification of it. If a certain amount of revenue must be raised, should this be done by raising the income-tax rate, which is a tax on initiative etc etc, or by a sales tax, which is a tax on misery and on the necessities of life, so that there may be no tax on the privilege of receiving by inheritance property which one has done nothing to earn? I neglected to include the property tax in the preceding sentence, but i stated the case against it rather copiously in Synapse when i went to work for the tax commission; it is close to being the most unjust of all.

At this point, Dick, Gregg said "The economy is in peril", and referred me to my president if i didn't believe the conservatives. I don't know what presidential statement Gregg had in mind, but i imagine it would be more properly understood as a statement that certain adjustments are now necessary to reduce inflationary pressures. At any time, either anti-inflationary or anti-deflationary measures are probably called for in order that we may continue to enjoy maximum prosperity, but this hardly carries the connotations of peril.

What level of taxation would be excessive depends on several factors. In a subsistence economy, 25 percent would be too much. As our per capita production increases above present levels, any desired percentage of the increase could be diverted to the public sector with little harm. Moreover, in a country where the government is performing some functions that might otherwise be left to private enterprise, such as education and the exploration of space, a larger portion of GNP to government is proper.

If people in high brackets are getting money without working for it, i think it wholesome that their rates are higher than those for people who earn what they get, which is more likely to be true in the lower brackets.

High-income people are, of course, better able to pay taxes also. Your approach to taxation seems to be that there is something immoral about taxes, and that taxes are especially immoral if they are designed with reference to ability to pay, effect on the economy, and suchlike considerations. Have you been so isolated from liberal thought that you feel your opinion is selfevidently true?



It's the Democratic Party. "Democrat" is a noun.

In commenting on the Busby fmz, Gregg took up several lines to explain that he was combining them to save space on his last mc stencil. Then he went on to say he was opening a beer, and from that point on quickly began making typos. "planing" for "planting", "Dis" for "Did", "ida" for "idea", usw. That alcohol got into his bloodstream fast.

You're welcome to reprint Advice fo' Chillun, Gregg, but i wonder if it hasn't been reprinted before. Seems i remember someone requesting permission some years back. It may be advisable to mention for some of our younger readers that Advice fo' Chillun used to be a box on the Li'l Abner page.

#### HELENS FANTASIA (Wesson)

Is the same animal calendar cycle used in Japan, China, and other oriental lands?

In commenting on the JDM Bibliophile, and again on the back page (where you had a parenthesis within a parenthesis) you neglected to close parentheses. It is probably good policy to avoid parentheses when possible. If both you and the reader are going off on a sidetrack of thought, it's probably not going to be convenient to continue the one on the main line just as if it had never been interrupted. So use a period, and then go back to the main line in a new sentence, if you remember to.

"All punctuation goes within the quotes". Even if it's a questionmark, and the quotation is not a question? Even as applied to periods and commas, which can perhaps be either within or without logically, i think the printshop rule is contrary to logic. I suppose the reason for it is esthetic: supposedly it's more pleasing to the eye to see the quotation mark after everything else. This is something like dropping the word "not" from a quotation because it's not euphonic.

Burton did right to advise you against allusions without including keys to their understanding by the uninitiate. Many passages in this hF are pretty hard to unlock. I eventually guessed that the Shel you referred to several times was your son and not your husband, but i'm not sure whether Peko and Pam are the same person. It occurs to me that my passing references to my family may be similarly enigmatic to some, though they are mentioned often enough that experienced FAPAns probably have them identified. To recapitulate, Margaret Ann, born 1955, is my daughter, Eddie B, b 1957, my son, and Ruth is my wife. Now, what is "the ichiban journal"? I won't ask about your operation, but i don't know that you had mentioned it before.

11-year-old Pamela's writings are incomparably better than those of Ron Bennett's 9- and 10-year-olds, but the necessity of using prescribed words in these exercises is not conducive to producing deathless prose.

#### HORIB (Lupoff)

Artist Stiles is a little weak on writing. The adjective for "space" is "spatial". Was the apostrophe in "Sci-Fi at it's Finest" intentional?

"this typewriter has no umlaut". It has a quotation mark, hasn't it? Can't Terry Carr drive a car?

A criticism of the movie version of Outward Bound was that it was given away at the beginning that the people were dead, something only gradually revealed in the play. I haven't seen it.

Eney could sing it, "Send my FAPA mailings to Washington, I'll read 'em on the other side." (This, Dick, was a folksong, "Send my FAPA mailings to Heaven, Mother".) (Hey, Helen, would you put the quotation mark outside all that?)

I'd like to hear how the IBM 1401 and Univac 1004 and 1101 were named. I supposed it was something like Salvorsan 606.

I hadn't heard about the copyright suit over Superman. Keep us informed.

### HORIZONS

"The Coulsons are hopefully publishers again." Were the Coulsons hopeful, or you?

The information that a given non-member received so many egoboo points for artwork, or poetry, or whatever, should be of more interest than the fact that he is a nonmember (the latter being indicated by parentheses anyway).

Now that we've disposed of garbage collection, let's discuss whether alleys are worth the land they take. There seems to be a tendency to omit them in latter-day platting, and I suspect the reason is the increasing size of residential lots. A similar reason, more pronounced, has rendered obsolete the old practice of laying farm-to-market roads along every section line.

You seem to have conflated and still left a typo (the first of the two) in the following: "All we have are the words and the sketchiest of scores--not every hint about which instruments play which parts, how fast or how loud the music is opposed to go".

Maybe Beethoven's arrival in the country startled and hushed the birds for 25 minutes.

If you've read Balzac, what can you tell us about The Quest of the Absolute? Is it s-f?

In discussing the tax exemption for children, Harry said: "If this disguised form of baby bonus encourages the population explosion, it is responsible for increasing the enormous bill for education that taxes must pay." To which I answer "If".

"You can't escape responsibility for what your government is doing" has at least this pragmatic meaning: If the government over you pursues a mistaken policy that brings down the wrath of the world on the country in which you live, you will suffer along with the other inhabitants in any resulting decline in the standard of living. And a similar result will follow if the voters' unwillingness to support early preventive measures results in an encirclement of your country by hostile powers that necessitates payment of tribute or an enlarged military establishment.

There's a soap-opera sound too in Kipple's "Will Redd and Gretchen at last find happiness?" But it's not just soap opera when it concerns real people whom you care about.

Do you have a model railroad?

Do you remember the Peter Rabbit Sunday comic by Harrison Gady?

Voting on the basis of material in Shadow FAPA would require us to read and remember it. And I can't even remember what was published in FAPA proper in the past year when egoboo time comes around. If the wait for FAPA membership is due to grow two years longer in the near future, I see nothing in your plan that would shorten it on the average.

I would nominate Midland Texas as a more dangerous place than Hagerstown to drop FDR's name. That's the oil capital that sent Ed Foreman to Congress.

"lack of first-class roads have played ..." "only to happy".

"In one out of ten housing units in this block, the number of occupants exceeds the number of rooms." Perhaps this is an indictment of American housing, but it struck me that it would sound strange in countries where two families often share a single room.

In speaking of the problem in setting a maximum income for families eligible for housing projects, you have directed attention to what may become one of the toughest problems of the war on poverty. If dropouts are to be given special training and help in finding jobs, if welfare families as they have done in the past receive surplus butter while middle-class people who prefer butter eat margarine, and if in other ways the identified poor get many advantages that cannot be afforded by the lower fringe of the self-supporting, we seem to hold out inducements for families in that fringe to reduce themselves to poverty. Up to now, what welfare legislation has provided to the poor, in the way of unemployment compensation, welfare payments, has been so niggardly that there has been little substance to the fears of conservatives that we were encouraging people to be bums. But now that we have moved into an economic level above destitution, to provide subsidized housing and other amenities, the contrast with the condition of the barely self-supporting is not so great, and there may be less incentive to become independent.

The rats leaving the houses that were about to be razed and invading previously untroubled homes might provide a theoretical model for a discussion: Is it better to tolerate evil or to attack it?

How late was the poorhouse in use in your part of the country? I have never heard of it in impoverished New Mexico.

Have you been in touch with Joe Gilbert in recent years? What's he doing?

#### SCROTE (Tapscott)

Scotty, your first FAPAazine is a pure pleasure.

The cat on the cover looks very like others I have seen in cartoons. Is not Stiles the artist?

Tyger Blake is a nice name for a cat.

I'd be glad to see an s-f convention in Salt Lake City. The most Albuquerque is likely to bid for any time soon is a Westercon. I think we ought to hurry to convene in SL, because I have a fear the lake is going to dry up soon.

The curse of a different howler was nice.

Your analysis of the looking-glass problem may contain the key to our long-delayed understanding of it. (What he said, Dick, was that a critter whose two eyes were located one above the other in its chest would wonder why a mirror reverses from top to bottom.)

I like the line "I heard that somewhere a long time ago and have always believed it, so it must be true." That's the way all of us feel about a great many certainties.

Properly, "ye" is nominative plural only, though dialectically and by the uneducated it is used in other ways. So "Two crows ye see, good luck to ye" would be bad in the second use.

I think Caxton printed it "Le Morte Darthur". At any rate, that's the way it's cited in the Cambridge Tennyson.

#### VINEGAR WORM (Leman)

A comparison with King Kong is not damning in my eyes. The Time writer probably didn't know the difference between hominy and hominy grits. As a collective noun, "grit" is often singular, like "bran". But one doesn't use the indefinite article before collectives. (This in a different sense from the "collectives" fen were collecting.)

After some dozens of lines, I learned that your daughter is probably 17. Age makes all the difference in understanding your remarks. (They were about being stage-struck, Dick.)

I put your questions to one of Albuquerque's ERB fans, Woody Wolfe. He is not particularly given to rereading the canon, having read substantially all of it long since. He likes to read about it, such as the question of how Korak got into World War I at his age. Woody does read other authors; he mentioned Shakespeare and Philip Wylie among others. It looks as if you'll have to adjust your theories to the facts, and accept the infinite variability of human nature.

I'm not so sure that a good color photograph would have preserved the exact look of those seasonable hills. I'm no great shakes on color, but it seems to me that color slides, especially Kodachrome, make the colors purer than they are. I didn't recognize the name Bliss Carmen, but i've seen several times those lines beginning "The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry". I think you've correctly pointed out their weakness.

"djinni" is the singular. Plural "djinn".

#### SOME NOTES ON THE CONFIGURATION AND CONDUCT OF LAUREATE POLLS (Jacobs)

While i don't go along with the British pronunciation category (remember it in The Third Man?), i could wish more fen were aware of it, so they'd stop spelling the word "catagory".

Y'u say "if the member votes, the member has additional points to award." Don't you mean that additional points are awarded to him?

A possible factor for egoboo polls which you don't mention is refreshing the recollection of the voters before they vote. While any partial list would be questionable because of its orientation, it would make a considerable difference if members had before them lists of all the contributions worth considering in a category before voting. The alternative of going through the last four mailings is more work than most of us are likely to do every year.

Your analysis of the problems of tabulation is good. I'd say of a jointly edited FAPazine that the editor who belongs to FAPA should get all the points.

Your discussion of the number of voters necessary to make a poll meaningful is unsophisticated. 50 percent might be necessary to get a good cross-section of a small apa, but a smaller percentage might suffice in a larger one. After all, George Gallup doesn't question even one percent of the US population. The real problem, of course, is that even a large sample is not a typical sample, because members who vote are different from those who don't vote.

I see no great reason to object to tabulating nonmembers' votes right along with the members, as has been done heretofore. The knowledge that nonmembers are not likely to score well should be check enough on members voting for them.

#### VORPAL DRAGON (Harrell)

I have to announce that the Vorpel Dragon reportedly postmailed a while back was not a legal postmailing, because Phil hasn't sent me one, even after request.

"Ever since Vorp gained fame ( or maybe I should say Noteririty)" -- better say fame; you can spell that. "a growing cliché of 'Vorp' fans". (He was speaking of the word, Dick, not his fanzine.)

Most of these i can figure out, Phil, but what's "a collegionious collection"?

Do you read your own palm? If you see something bad coming, can you escape it?

Here is what i said in Synapse commenting on Quotebook: "'a camera can lie; the innocent punished and the beautiful can be ugly--thus proving that God works in mysterious nays.' Did you mean 'the innocent can be punished'? And was 'nays' a typo?" Here is Harrell's comment: "'The innocent punished' usually takes for granted that you or the person reading it will read between the words and add

the obvious. ( I can hear it now 'the obvious what?' so I'll say it for you Jack'Words') and as for 'nays' I suppose you've never heard of using a play on words." I'm afraid someone else might say "Can't you make the obvious correction mentally and not raise a question about an obvious typo?" In a play on words there is usually an applicable meaning for each reading. Maybe there is an applicable meaning to "God works in mysterious nays", but i'm not sure what it is.

"As for your ~~xxx~~ tricky question about Breen I said I would say nothing more on the subject". The question was: "Do your remarks about Breen mean 'I don't think he's a pederast', or do they mean 'Even if he is one, I'm proud to know him'?" That's real trappy-tricky, isn't it? Like "Have you started beating your wife?"

"Speaking of Typos, I could sworn that it was Death otherwise known as 'the Grim Reaper' that carried the scythe and not 'Saturn' otherwise known as 'Satan' Brush up on your own typos before calling me on mine." No typo, kiddo. Only people like Ray Palmer confuse Satan and Saturn. The grim reaper is a rather recent concept probably derived from Father Time, who carries a scythe and hourglass. Father Time derives from Saturn, whom the Romans identified with Kronos, whose name some people confused with "chronos". One of Kronos's attributes was a sickle, which he used on his father Ouranos in the rebellion that ushered in the golden age. And that's where the scythe comes from.

"Why did Gregg vote for Goldwater? Perhaps because this is a free country and one can vote as they please." No, that isn't the reason. That's merely the condition.

I missed the Time Tunnel sequence involving a rocket. Has the Time Tunnel ever sent them into their future?

#### SCIENCEFICTION FIVEYEARLY

The cover well expresses the spirit of the magazine. Who drew it? Zyz sounds like a good planet for these people that build dream worlds. " I counted only eleven labors of Scrilch. You attribute "I had one grunch but the eggplant over there" to Harlan Ellison. Did he plant it in one of his stories? I'm glad that DAG has at last found happiness. White's case for his pattern of fandoms up to 1962 is pretty convincing. " My term for the period between fandoms was "transition". An interregnum was a period when an organization like FAPA had no properly elected officers.

#### DIFFERENT (Moskowitz)

Do you have a copy you could reprint of the alternate ending to Country of the Blind? Lowndes distributed this to persons who renewed their subscriptions to Le Vombiteur or something, i believe, and i'd like to read it. " Graph by Weinbaum was not s-f or fantasy.

The June cover painting for Satellite shows the rim-circles of a large and a small lunar crater interpenetrating, which is one of the things they don't do.

#### JDM BIBLIOPHILE (Moffatt)

Did you get the information for Help Wanted from JDM? " This collection of synopses provides the material for some hasty generalizations about detective fiction. Its subjectmatter seems so limited that the field could not have survived were it not for merits extrinsic to crime detection: the writers note little tricks of human nature, make philosophical points, describe common things in fresh ways, explore motivations acutely, ktp.

## SERCONS BANE

I'd be surprised if there is a negative correlation between sensitivity in hearing and ability to pick out and follow one speaker at a cocktail party.

You seem impressed by the mere number of different taxes that are paid. Wouldn't it make more sense to compare the total bite in different cities?

Yes, I think a nation might ratify some diminution of its undue voting power in the UN, if this were part of a package that would make the UN more effective in maintaining peace. It happened 180 years ago.

Member Breen seems to be almost entirely encysted within FAPA now. His last offering produced only one comment in this mailing, and that one was predictable --Warner can no more pass up an occasion to expound on opera than I can pass up one to expound on the Civil War.

I'd never have guessed that Downwind Jaxon was supposed to have a disfigured face. He often showed it to chicks, just not to the viewing audience.

## SALUD

Could you reread Sherlock Holmes now with so little memory that you wouldn't even know the solution to the mystery?

Alex Comfort quotes an epitaph to the point of your remark to Dan:

He first deceased, she for a little tried

To live without him, lik'd it not, and died.

Shortly after I read your remarks on winter days being short, my two children in conversation noted the fact. I don't know that Ruth or I have ever mentioned it to them, but in their clock-regulated lives it could hardly be overlooked that, for example, The Twilight Zone is nearly night in winter. If I noticed the phenomenon at all at their ages, I dismissed it as an illusion created by the colder weather. (Incidentally, the difference is not as great in Oklahoma as in higher latitudes like Seattle's.)

I'd have thought Norm Clarke a pure Dionysian.

## ALIQOT (Hevelin)

Why would an expense-paid trip make a difference in your attending the NYcon? New York is nextdoor to Ohio; you should be able to walk over every day.

What's the source of your information on what the POD gains and loses on the several classes of mail?

Your sequel to the Tired American is more sensible than the original or its rejoinders. This writer sometimes exaggerated the contradictions, however. "more experts on marriage ... and more divorces" are probably related as effect and cause. Divorce being a great problem, it would be a rebuke to our country if there were not many efforts to solve the problem. "We're supposed to be the most civilized nation in the world, but we still can't deliver payrolls without an armored car." In how many countries can they?

The artificial island as an independent nation is an appealing idea, but they ought to try it in an area with rich natural resources, like these gas fields in the North Sea. I've often wondered by what principle of international law the little sheikdoms of Arabia are considered to own the oilfields way out in the Persian Gulf. There would be the best place to build an artificial country.

I agree that Bruce ought not to have been around when the ballots were marked, whether or not it was unconstitutional.



## DAMBALLA

Why can't you make wine as fast as Kirk Douglas made it for Polyphemus?

Why do you buy flight insurance?

What's the origin of "fully dressed and in his right mind"?

I thought The Green Girl was by Harold M Sherman. Williamson wrote The Stone from the Green Star, but my DDay index isn't here to see if he wrote a Green Girl.

I can't believe there's any real danger to your Federal job in belonging to an organization where our Vietnam policy is criticized. Civil liberty has been strengthened a great deal, not least in the Civil Service, since the days of McCarthy, and even if this were not so, the government could hardly make criticism of the Vietnam policy a ground for discharge, when perhaps a quarter of the nation disapproves of that policy. Shame on you for a nervous Nellie, Chuck.

Why, I commented on two things in that Damballa besides mixed metaphors. Incidentally, some people won't believe this, but it gives me pleasure to say that in the fanzines around the middle of the last mailing bundle there were no typos or the like that call for comment.

If not Father Perrault, why don't you go as his assistant? I forget the latter's name, but he was more a typical lama than the Frenchman.

## VANDY

Will Indian corn grow in Europe? If so, why don't they grow it there, get more yield per acre than wheat provides, and make Germans familiar with roasting ears?

For a while in there, Mr Spock was one of the worst things in Star Trek, because writers striving for human interest were constantly pillorying his excessive devotion to what they called logic. This reached its nadir in the episode of the Galileo Seven, where Spock was in charge of an expedition in the space runabout.

I'm allergic to "due to the fact" because what the speaker calls a fact usually isn't one.

Do assessors visit your home in Indiana?

How long was Hitler a vegetarian?

In case Dan doesn't answer, I think it very unlikely that Wichita and Washita are forms of the same word. French explorers spelled the latter Ouachita.

One of my war wounds is on my right great toe. I wasn't wearing sandals then, but when a cabinet of confidential files fell on it they rushed around filling out workmen's compensation forms.

He shouldn't fondle himself in front of his window.

Buck sounds . . . , skeptical of the skepticism about the death of John Wilkes Booth. A book on historical mysteries showed that there were some grounds for doubt that Booth was killed in the burning barn; however, Otto Eisenschiml, who probably investigated the question more thoroughly than anyone else, seemed to conclude that Booth probably was killed there, on Stanton's orders, to keep him from revealing the Secretary's part in the assassination. Incidentally, in The Fourteenth of April, the second of my three branches of time was the historical one.

"Solicitor" is an English term, limited to office lawyers. Those who argue before the bar are barristers.

I sure don't know what happened to Billy Whiskers, though I did come across a very condensed modern version of one of the stories, for small children. The surprising thing to me is that I remember almost exactly zero about these stories which were read to us during hours of class time at a supposedly impressionable age.

## BOBOLINGS (Pavlat)

Well, Bob, we'd be proud to have you all come to New Mexico. I don't have a regular spiel organized, but here are some thoughts that have occurred to me about the state: A too-dry climate is better than a too-wet one; man has more control of the environment when he can grant or withhold one of the necessities of plant life, water. High altitude and low latitude are a good combination for comfortable climate: Summers in mile-high Albuquerque are not oppressive (we all have evaporation airconditioners, which work well here), and half the winter days are like spring. The still higher mountains of course hold the possibilities of skiing, of which you are probably well aware. The large Spanish-American minority involves some of the problems (juvenile delinquency, etc) that go with other disadvantaged ethnic minorities, but not to the extent that they are found with Negroes and Puerto Ricans. There is no fixed bar against the Spanish here, only a mild prejudice on top of the poor backgrounds of most, and many of them will be found among the leading lawyers, professors, ricos, landowners, officeholders, asf, though not in proportion to their numbers, except in the lastmentioned category; there is quite a bit of intermarriage. You ought not to bracket Santa Fe with Albuquerque in your jobhunting, for it belongs to another world, an island in northern New Mexico where the Spanish are in the majority and have been since the 1600s. Santa Fe is quaint, colorful, and beloved of special types of Anglos, including George Metzger's. It is also 7000 feet high. Albuquerque is American, and 3/4 new. Politically, New Mexico is surprisingly progressive; when an abortion law is seriously debated in the legislature of a state with as large a Catholic population as ours, it's remarkable. Something else that just occurred to me as possibly appealing to you is the ease of movement in eastern Albuquerque, where you would most likely work and live. One evening recently i drove to my office, five minutes east of here, worked for a while, then went west to the university to see how the election of a county chairman was progressing. When they started introducing elected officials for a few words, i returned to the office and worked a while longer, then went back to watch the balloting. In most cities, i believe, the places where one wants to go would not be within such casual reach of each other.

## BINX (Grennell)

I am reminded of my bikeriding in Algeria in the days when it was French. My American bicycle had a coaster brake, nothing visible, and i imagined the Frogs saying "Fol Americain--pas de freins."

Was Don Fitch at this party? "E\*\*\*\*\*u" suggests to me only "Econou", but surely you didn't have a run-in with her over obscenity.

Did Ellison add "when our backs were turned" to the classic groin remark?

I'm glad Ron Ellik didn't need the credits you were trying to throw his way, to renew his membership. I would have felt constrained to protest.

## SPIANE (Moffatt and Sneary)

What with your saying at one point that the Wampum train left at 5:20 A.M., and placing these villages southwest of Pittsburgh, i had some difficulty following your homegoing. However, i enjoyed it.

"can an officer do things that are not directly mentioned, or must he do only as the Constitutions agys, and no more". The general answer to that would seem to be that it was decided over a hundred years ago that written constitutions should be liberally construed, but if you'd give concreter examples of what you mean, we might be able to answer better.

## LIGHTHOUSE (Carr)

Dick's chaotic thoughts are no great advertisement for the insights of LSD. (That's Phil Dick, Richard.) He argued that since the origin of s-f lies in 17th-century tales of fabulous voyages, Verne's moonflight would be just as much s-f had the travelers gone by rubber band rather than rocket (as i recall, it wasn't a rocket, but never mind). This would put it in the same class with Cyrano's fantastic flights.

Sorry, Dikini, i'm not going to take the trouble to copy for you the false syllogism quoted from an old Shangri-l'Affaires. The false step was "Non-fans are human beings." This should have been rendered more fully, "All non-fans are some human beings", and then the conclusion would be "All fans are not some human beings".

I think perhaps Disch had a valid insight when he wrote: "The crude spectacles of nature are sights more for the eye itself than for the mind behind the eye: sunrise, cathedral, gulch, foliage, snow-capped, etc. Travel mocks the mind".

I suppose Stiles was copying, but his drawings for The Western Outlaw are good anyway. ' Pat, has anyone made a comparison of the number of actual outlaws with the number of those in fiction?

Willis: Was the Donaghadee pneumonia what killed Keats?

I understood the rest of "Jer rumble th' wullanullay?", but how does "rumble" become "understand"? ' But pimps are not alleged to swish, are they? ' Thanks for identifying the sources of your interlineations.

Carol: Is mistletoe juice hallucinogenic? Which kind--Oklahoma mistletoe or New Mexico? And what's a watermelon button? ' Aren't Pete and Terry young to be fans of Hullabadig a Go-Go?

But what's the source of "God is not dead. He is alive and well in Argentina"? George Lincoln Rockwell?

It seems a fault to use such a vague title as "On Professional Jealousy and Other Things" for an article which is about one subject, Zelazny's fiction.

Gina: "Wasp" bothers me for two reasons. One is that "White" is unnecessary, since "Anglo-Saxon" implies this. So maybe the term should be "Asp". And if you're going to keep "White", then the acronym might better be "Hasp", H being the first sound of "White". ' Look, Leeh and you others, Gina knows how to spell "renowned". The word has nothing to do with "know", being related instead to "name" ' I've been forbearing nitpicking recently, but "forebearing rapists" deserves at least to be noted. That's one of the grounds on which they want to legalize abortion in New Mexico, so rapists won't so often be forebears. ' What you regard as the bleak heritage of the average Protestant is an advantage, no more to be regretted than is the lack of a hereditary nobility in America.

The reason i didn't take advantage of your letter section to record my comments on the last Lighthouse was that (bet you thought i was going to say "because") i didn't get it read till close to deadline, and i assumed if there was to be another Lighthouse in the next mailing, my letter would be too late for any possibility of publication. Had i known it would be a long time before another Lighthouse appeared, this might also have been a reason for putting my comments in Synapse. But if Lighthouse is going to appear with some regularity, i'd be glad to send my comments to you, to publish or not as you see fit. Vicious circle, isn't it?: Few letters, few Lighthice; few Lighthice, few letters.

Along here in the bundle occurred several LA publications which provoked few marginotes other than nitpicks, and then

## SPINNAKER REACH

What's "jacklighting sleeping crows as shotgun targets"? Are crows omnivorous?

Why does Fick use a kerosene lantern instead of the much more efficient gasoline, pressure, and mantle Coleman lantern?

I suppose solar radiation at Mars would be roughly 1/4 the intensity at Earth. Is that enough to relieve the problem?

There was no story named "Tweel", was there? There were two about Tweel.

Is x the only letter on your keyboard that repeats? I intended to check this on the Selectric Saturday, and forgot.

I'd like to take time to unravel the interplanetary message, but it's 0315 on the Monday before deadline, and i'm not in top form. It seems obvious that message 2 gives digits in order, which are then used to begin mathematical operations in message 3. If Campaigne has succeeded in conveying any meaning other than mathematical abstractions, he has accomplished what Old Faithful was unable to do. (You will remember that Old Faithful was able to convey useful messages only by associating his messages with independent events such as a comet entering the solar system.)

## SUPPLEMENT TO THE VINEGAR WORM

At your suggestion, i tried substituting "Trade Unionism" for "Catholicism" in Power as an Issue. So far as it made sense, i'd say the reason i would not have reacted as you would is that on the ultimate substantive issues, to which i referred, i in general disagree with the Catholics but agree with labor. That would be a rational basis for a different reaction, wouldn't it? I might add that i don't agree with organized labor's breaking of the anti-inflation guidelines last year. You would probably like for me to feel therefore that we liberals have built up the power of a monster that will now destroy the national economy. I don't think it will. Labor passed its peak of power quite a few years ago, not because of any firm stand by anti-labor forces, but because of technological change.

Perhaps one reason for the sharp increase in paperback book prices since the original two-bit PocketBooks is that with all the competition there is now more waste, unsellable surplus, than in the calm days when PocketBook reprinted a few sure-fire winners each month.

## SYNAPSE

"a large part of its audience ... largely deserted ... It's largely from" --Yech.

My wife Ruth, who's in an AAUW conversational Spanish group, points out an error in the term "San Domingo". It seems that when the following name begins with To-, as in Tomas, or Do-, the title is "Santo". The error may be Secretary of the Interior Jacob Cox's, who asked Grant "has it been settled then, that we want to annex San Domingo?" However, Woodward uses the latter form throughout his account of this episode.

It was a good year for time, right down to the end. An NET production of Maxwell Anderson's play The Star Wagon was broadcast just before Christmas. This is a pretty good story from the human-interest viewpoint. Like Boucher's tale of two men who changed the outcome of an election, it shows the weakness of time-travel stories for depicting time-tampering as in vain. It also had the usual weaknesses in temponautical theory: I cannot believe that twenty-five years' additional experience and knowledge would change the characters so little that, having reentered their earlier selves, it took an effort to wrench themselves away from

the pattern of repeating the things they said before (even to commenting that bicycle bloomers left nothing to the imagination). Secundus, the convention of having the mind span time in addition to the mechanistic temponautics was used when characters who didn't board the star wagon (time machine) nevertheless had intimations or dreams of the alternatives the temponauts explored. The Star Wagon was written in 1937, and Act I was probably contemporary then. For no good reason, in this production the point from which the temponauts started was dated 1932. This made references to WPA workers etc anachronistic.

And after several weeks of waiting for a Star Trek episode that i could praise by letter (as The Committee requested), Rodenberry came up with a fairly good one in Yesterday is Tomorrow. It didn't blaze any new trails in temponautical theory, for it adopted the popular theory that the past can stand a certain amount of tampering without changing the future, but at least it was good straightforward adventure, and snapped a string of dismally bad episodes.

The ideas about physics demonstrated in that Illustrated Story of Space also got into a movie recently broadcast sub nom Satellite in Space, apparently British made. This presented the remarkable idea that once a ship was "beyond the reach of Earth's gravity", an atomic bomb it tried to discharge for testing was powerfully attracted to it. The ship and everything got blown up in the end, which serves such ignorance right. On the other hand, the Japanese-made First Spaceship on Venus, broadcast this Sunday, used the correct statement, "We're in free fall", or at least the English dubbers did.

#### IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS (Lyons)

Not written for FAPA, but probably somewhere in my files is an article rejected by The Outdoor Boy page, in which i described the state of the art on rubber guns in the early 1930s. You mention many fine points, such as projectiles other than the rubber bands themselves, which i did not cover.

---

"There I met an old man who wouldn't say his prayers."

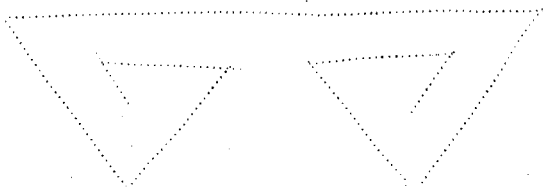
---

The Magic Tunnel is another Scholastic paperback recently bought by one of my kids. A subway express with a magic wishing spot is the vehicle by which two children go back to Stuyvesant's time. An unusual touch is that there's a place for them there; they belong to a Dutch family. Primarily the book seems to be a means of describing the fall of New Amsterdam. The appearance of such a book is scarcely worth mentioning in this day when science-fiction is ubiquitous, especially in children's fare, but, surprisingly, the original copyright date is 1940. The author, Caroline D Emerson.

---

I took him by the left leg and threw him down the stairs."

---



## SE DICE

Letter from Vietnam:

The comment about the existence of warnings against a "protein type stencil" interest me. I wonder if this could refer to one of the varieties of photosensitive silkscreen resist, which I believe have a gelatin base? I can at least imagine somebody thinking that mimeo ink is a good thing to use with the silkscreen. For all-white stencils, Gestetner makes an all-white stencil which is certainly compatible with oil-base ink.

I don't believe correcting typos and misspellings is "changing what (one) purports to quote" in an invidious sense. Think of the side effect of snideness which is created by displaying an argument full of typos. At least, when the debater's education/lack of it is not an issue. Even if it is, as with Danner's classic put-down of a pseudo-arty type -- which quoted an adulatory sentence in which every word over one syllable long was misspelled -- rendering stuff (sic) would seem to shift the argument from content to form. This is E\*v\*i\*1. /I follow the Golden Rule. I don't want other editors tinkering with the way i say something. I remember one editor--i think it was Tom Perry--who in all innocence in publishing a loc made what he must have thought was an obvious correction of "of" to "or" and destroyed the sense of what i was saying (not an argument, by the way) so that it read "Charles Beaumont or Everett Washington" (Everett is a small city north of Seattle).7

... As I remember it Alley Oop was originally unable to understand the language of the Womnug party. Didn't dig fanspeak, perhaps.

Dr. Pepper is available in Viet Nam. That should be wide enough distribution to satisfy anybody. ...

"If we'd never known (music) we'd never miss it" seems a risky generalization for a stefnist. /But the statement in Habakkuk was that man would be a pretty sorry creature without music. You know-- Without a song--7 Do we miss telepathy, ESP, space flight, ktp, because we had them once and remember what they're like? On a slightly different level I tend to suspect that music, if it hadn't existed, would have been discovered as an analogue of visual effects or an abstraction from, say, elocution. Indeed I believe one of the Rhetoricians of the Roman Empire actually did note similarities between strictly verbal recitations and plainsong-type chants.

No doubt any simplification produces a mathematically detectable improvement, but when you make omissions that change meaning, like leaving out punctuation, you are making an excessive sacrifice. If you're going to computerize a system, it's too much modesty to refuse to exploit the machine's ability to handle half a hundred characters as easily as twenty-six...both being dealt with in fsst! milliseconds. /You may be right. But i feel the apostrophe is especially unsacred because omitting it would get us back toward the original purity of our language ("And specially from every shires ende"). The trouble with punctuation as part of a key word you'd search by is that the searcher is not likely to know, or remember, the punctuation as well as he does the letters. In the current mailing, for example Ted Johnstone has to point out to us that ZAP! was not the same fanzine as ZAP, nor even ZAP! As we simplify for the computers by omitting the distinction between upper and lowercase (since this too is often not observed or remembered), so also perhaps we should consider the punctuation of a title nonessential.7

... If you use any of this letter I would appreciate your noting that I'm not receiving FAPazines over here and would like to hear from any FAPA member who'd care to send me a copy of his fanzine. /There, FAPans, a chance to do a good

deed for a faraway fellowmember faunching for fmz (alliteration is the feeblest form of art). Address Richard H Eney, US AID Viet Nam, c/o American Embassy, Saigon, APO Frisco 96243.7 I asked Pelz to airmail copies of The Fantasy Amateur so I could keep up with my dues & activity but I suppose it slipped his mind or something.

The parallel and, indeed, the original event suggested by "what happened to the New Freedom when Woodrow Wilson became preoccupied with foreign affairs" is a little inaccurate. Your putting it that way makes it sound as if foreign affairs were picked up out of sheer crossgrained perversity instead of obtruding themselves with a force that made disregard impossible. /I didn't so mean it. However, it seems possible that things would have worked out better if we had never gotten into World War One.7

Letter from Hong Kong:

Went up to the Red Chinese border today on picture-taking trip. Just made it under the wire, maybe-- /Were you referring to the civil war, or Russia's recent moves?7

---

"Susan sits in sofa's shelter, Six small Slocums side by side."1

---

Additions to the collection of incomplete newspaper items:

Earlier in the day, Carmichael told a news conference he was "not opposed to violence, nor have I ever been."

Fresh from a stay in the Atlanta jail where he had been held on charges of inciting to riot, Carmichael explained the apparent disparity between his philosophy and his organization's name.

End of item. And:

Fulbright suggested that nations which "now view each other with such suspicion" approach one another instead in the spirit of Pope John's words to former Soviet Premier Krushchev's son-in-law: "'They tell me you are an atheist.

---

"Your kids and my kids are ganging up on our kids!"1

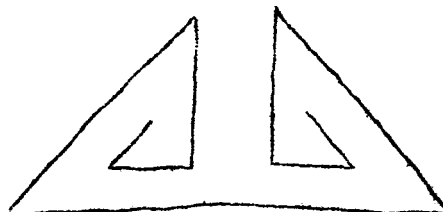
---

One of the weaknesses of the English language shows up in this headline: SPIKE JONES WILL READ. Did you mentally pronounce it "reed" or "redd"?

---

"The Finster smoker is too tough to care."1

---



## THE LEADER SQUEAKS

Among the souvenirs turned up in my latest move was my membership card in the Mickey Mouse Club.

Now you're supposed to wonder what a sober lawyer was doing in the black-skullcap set, and then i explain that this was the original Mickey Mouse Club. I'm not sure when i was in it, but recently i had occasion to hunt through the microfilms of a 1933 newspaper, and saw the club mentioned there.

My card specifically identifies me with the local theater and newspaper. On the back is a pledge of fair play, that seems like an anticipation of the Doc Savage pledge. However, i suspect that all the grown-up officers really wanted was our dimes. When we went to the theater the first Saturday morning, we were also provided paper hats--but without ears--and balloons, all standard party-type stuff.

Then the hero came out in a cartoon accompanied by songwords on screen, and led us in singing. For this bucolic and mousier Mickey, the words ran so:

Oh, I'm the guy who they call Mister Mickey Mouse.

Got a sweetie down in the chicken house:

Neither fat nor skinny, she's the horse's whinny,

She's my little Minnie Mouse.

When it's feeding time for the animals,

And they howl and growl like the cannibals,

I just turn my heel, to the henhouse steal,

And you'll hear me sing this song:

Oh, the old tomcat with his "Meow, meow, meow",

Old houn' dog with his "Bow wow wow",

The crows' "Caw caw" and the mule's "Hee haw"---

Gosh, what a racket, like an old buzz saw!

I have listened to the cuckoo "cuck" his "Cuckoo",

And I've heard the rooster "cock" his "doodle-doo-oo";

With the cows and the chickens they all sound like the dickens,

When I hear my little Minnie's "Yoo-hoo!"

This was followed by a cartoon festival. After about the first two Saturdays however, the management told us they were going to help us put one over on the people who weren't there, and showed us the cowboy epic that was slated for the matinee. This became the pattern from that time on, and soon the Mickey Mouse Club song was no longer run. In disillusionment, i realized that it had just been a gimmick to get us to go to the show every Saturday.

---

"Gules a hound dog statant or.

---



---

Motto: Don't Kick Our Dawg. <sup>11</sup>

---



PROLOG FOR A STORY BY REDD BOGGS OR BILL DONAHO

"Son, I want to have a long talk with you."

"Certainly, Father. What would you like to know?"

"You will have noticed by now that you are remarkably lucky with young women."

"That is true. It is almost as if I had an hypnotic power of compulsion over them in that respect."

"They do not even insist on contraceptive measures, do they?"

"Look, Father, if you want vicarious kicks, I have some novels by Redd Boggs and Bill Donaho that I will lend you."

"My interest in your doings is purely eugenic. I am glad of what we have just touched upon, because your destiny is to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth."

"I rejoice that we are in agreement. But do you think the earth needs filling? It seems to me there were several billion people too many at last count."

"There is always room at the top, my boy. And now let me tell you how this came about. In my work I had long been distressed at the tendency of the less fit to procreate faster than the more fit. So before you were conceived, I tampered with your Y chromosome to give you this strange power you have over women. It is a dominant characteristic, and all your sons will have it."

"That is great, and I am moved to build my life's purpose around this gift. However, I do not see how I can have a measurable eugenic effect in the country even if I beget two dozen children a year."

"The long view is entailed. Suppose the average annual crop till the first come of age includes ten boys. In twenty years there will be some two hundred males of your F1 generation. When the F2s come along, if all goes well, they might number forty thousand; but say ten thousand, since some of your sons, lacking your knowledge of your great mission, will tolerate contraception. In F3 there should be several hundred thousand. You may well live to have half a million male heirs. Beyond that time, your issue will speedily become a majority of humanity, no matter how numerous it has grown. Though the human race must ere then check its overall growth, your percentage of the whole will continue to gain."

"This is fine for your ego and mine, Dad. But with all respect to you and Mother, I do not see how my excellent heredity is going to enrich the race's noticeably after the dilution that a few generations will bring."

"It is not necessary that it do so. It is enough if copies of that gene in your Y chromosome become widely diffused through the population. They could be distributed at random from top to bottom, and the eugenic effect would still prevail."

Because when a man has his choice, he will naturally tend to choose the well favored. The women will in general be beautiful, and beauty correlates with intelligence. They will be healthy, too. This is the genetic material that will be selected for rapid propagation through association with your gifted gene."

"It sounds like one of those plots in which everything goes wrong at the end."

"Things going wrong can slow this plan, but not defeat it. The only danger of defeat is that your line might accidentally die out before becoming firmly established. Therefore, my son, get with it."

