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CASTING A GENZINE UPON THE WATERS [ACT TWO]: Well, I sent ALGOL to the sullen hordes of FAPA. How did it work, you might well wonder. Well, gang, the result was about as expected: a sullen silence. I was not helped by Helen Wesson's comment, "Is this or is this not a FAPazine?" That comment, in fact, was one of those which ~~in~~ tipped my mind toward not sending ALGOL through FAPA anymore.

Greg Benford, in a recent conversation, asked whether I was going to continue to send it through FAPA, noting that he needed the page credit. And Harry Warner, just last week, noted that ~~xxx~~ Helen Wesson's comment was a little faux pas based on the fact that she'd been Sick lately. Being Sick, I suppose, permits one to do Fuggheaded things. I might mention that each copy of ALGOL that went through FAPA cost me 67¢. And what did I get out of it? I got one very good comment from Gregg Calkins. And that's about it.

And so these comments. Off the top of my head, and necessarily rushed (I began to type masters for this mailing back in March, but since then I've been involved in a little overtime, and working on the new ALGOL -- especially that -- and somehow the time went by, and so here I am. Working against a deadline, as usual) and knowing I must have this all typed and run off and in San Francisco in less than a week. Owell.

Of those whom ~~x~~ I asked for ~~same~~ response, only Gregg Calkins and Diane Girard have responded. The rest...well, it was a Noble Experiment running ALGOL through FAPA. I've learned my lesson.

The new ALGOL, which will be in the mails before you read this, will have columns by Ted White and Dick Lupoff; articles by Alfred Bester, Thomas Burnett Swann, Jacques Sadoul, Richard Wilson, Bob Silverberg; artwork by Vaughn Bode, Jim Cawthorn, Freff, C. Lee Healy, Mike Hinge, Jim McLeod, Bill Rotsler and Joe Staton; and letters by Terry Carr, Bob Shaw, George Turner, Alexei Panshin, Jack Wodhams, Harry Warner (faithful Harry Warner...), Gregg Calkins, lotsa others.

Unfortunately, the only way most of you can get it is to send me \$3.00 for 4 issues. Sorry, but that's the way it's got to be...

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I do have three pages chockful of transit and steam goodies, but I'm debating now whether or not to put it in this FAPA amiling. Maybe just to do 2 pages. The deadline is only a week from now and there are many and varied fannish things to do. I've begun working on the LACon Program Book, and of course there's all the last-minute ALGOL stuff to clear away. At this particular moment, I just don't know...Also I've noticed I can't type worth a damn tonite.

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You may have noticed that I've bought a new typeface for the Selectric. It's slightly serified, and is in fact the typeface I've used most extensively in the new ALGOL. It reduces especially well, and can pass on slight scrutiny for a regular book face. I also hope it comes out better than the other faces I have on these ditto masters.

Speaking of ditto masters, someone (Jeff Glencannon? Jerry Lanidus?) recently commented on the dearth of dittoes genzines extant in fandom today. Seemingly everyone's going in for mimeographed fanzines WITH EXTENSIVE use of electrostenciled artwork. Or offset, in some cases (although somehow offset fanzines break down into two categories: those who don't know how to use the medium and those who do).

To my knowledge the only people making extensive and common use of ditto today are Earl Evers in ZEEN and Ken Fletcher in several zines, most recently KAZOO, which was one of the funniest fanzines I've seen in years. Steve Stiles got rid of his ditto machine years ago; I keep mine in the closet and resurrect it whenever it's time to do a FAPA-

zine. But other than that I don't use it much. Admittedly I still do a lot of experimental designs and graphics; but most of that comes out in offset. There is, in fact, quite a lot of experimentation in the new ALGOL, a fact that should delight Jerry Lapidus if no one else...

One article in particular, by Thomas Burnett Swann, is illustrated by two illustrations. The article is "The Day Of The Dolphin" [I think...]. Oons; no it's not; it's: THE DOLPHIN DAYS. The type used is Arnold Bocklin, for all you letreset freaks; and the shape of the illustrations was designed, too. A large one on the first page of the article is convex on the top, concave on the bottom. A second illo on the last page of the article is flat on top, concave on bottom. Between phone calls and letters and everything else, those two illustrations cost me more than \$10.00 to arrange.

As both I and Mike Glicksohn have learned, actually bothering to have artwork which illustrates a particular feature can be a Great Pain at times. But I must admit that it looks damned nice. So, you balance it out: \$10.00 versus the final esthetic look. Was it worth it? I suspect yes.

And now a last (well, maybe not; I'll decide tomorrow) word about ALGOL. This issue cost: printing, \$278.00. Postage, \$56.00. Envelopes, \$14.00. Mailing Labels, \$15.00. Total, \$343.00. There are two other expenses: Advertising, \$25.00. Letreset type, \$36.00. These can be ~~spz~~ spread out over future issues as somethingswhich do not just affect this issue (the type will be used in other issues; the advertising expenses will provide subscriptions for other issues besides the immediate one). That's the debit side.

On the credit side, my subscriptions have more than doubled since last issue (from about 90 to slightly less than 200 as I type this). Result of this is \$150.00 in subscription money credited to this issue. The result is that although the pressrum has gone up the cost to me (my pocketbook) has come down. And with about 400 - 450 subscriptions I break even. Ah, fandom; it certainly is a wonderful thing...

Forgot to mention; since a little nudging and a writeup in Publishers Weekly, I'm getting a lot more review books. Some, of course, go to Dick Lupoff; the rest I keep. I suspect if I ever totalled up their prices as income, ALGOL would come close to breaking even right now. Sure saves on buying SF, though...

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MAILING COMMENTS ON THE 138TH MAILING:

THE RAMBLING FAP (Calkins): I know I should but off MC's for a few more days until I'm in a better mood but the time's simply not there.///Anent your comments to Greg Shaw, seems to me most fanzines have a circulation of about 150 to 250 nowadays; it took my own ALGOL about 7 issues to gradually work up from around 150 to the 250-275 range. At the point when I wanted to send out more than 300 copies (most for free -- 2 years ago I had only 50-75 subscriptions) I realized I'd eather have to go to mimeo or offset. Mimeo meant buying a mimeograph -- which I didn't want to do -- or finding a cheap offset printer. The printer I'm using now means I can produce a fanzine for less-per-copy costs than with ditto. As I've said elsewhere, 24# Ditto paper ain't cheap. My SFWEEKLY never got above 250 in circulation. Even so, I had to have the help of Dave Van Arnam -- who did the actual running off, ran it through a folding machine, got my ~~zk~~ envelopes run through a postage meter -- for the last 9 months of its life. One thing SFW was good for was that I think I can write an incisive paragraph with the best of them, today, because of the experience I gained.///You put a great deal of yourself into your FAPazine; there are others who do this, which is Nice, but other members of FAPA create a paper personality -- or lack of one -- which is a mask for their personal lives. I've thought of the idea of a personal diary in my FAPazine,



but have simply never been able to begin effectively. But knowing what people do in the Real World does help to create a better picture of them.///Anent your activity gainers and losers, looks like I'm going to be a loser for this year. Most of my activity will be going into ALGOL, with activity in other places where it's not too evident. Right now, I'm trying to work on the L.A. Program Book...///Seems to me I recall Ted White writing a letter asking about what to do with the Ellick fanzine collection and the word coming back from Ron Ellick's estate to "send them back." Trucking 30 or more cartons to the post office and paying postage (no reimbursement for postage was ever mentioned that I know of) was something which would be low on any fans' priorities; several cartons were sent, and the rest languished until Agberg came along.

HELEN'S FANTASIA (Helen Wesson): Noted. [Try that comment on for egoboo...]

GOLIARD (Karen Anderson): In an effort to read all the Hugo nominees, this year as well as last, I did read TAU ZERO. Personally, I thought that for scope and human involvement, Edmund Cooper's SEED OF LIGHT was better done. And very much the same theme, too. Praise be to Krug...

TARGET: FAPA (Dick Eney): I must shamefully admit that during the last Major Offensive, that which as of this week still continues, I got the sudden thought that What If (good sfnal plot basis, that) the NVA actually did what they probably meant to do -- cut Vietnam in half, occupy Hue, An Loc (wrecked all fighting for an l.o.c., it seems) and various other cities and villages -- the seesaw of battle/counter-attack/retaking lost positions/Paris stalemate might change. And so, as in King Kong (no pun intended) and other monster movies, I find myself rooting for The Other Side. Not that I cheer and clap everytime some RVN soldier gets it in the gut, but any country whose soldiers climb out of and desert their tanks and guns, shed their uniforms, and try to fade into the woodwork, must have a little less than something going for them... Spotty mimeo, too.

GRANDFATHER STORIES (Howard DeVore): Yes, Bowker manages the best they can to lose friends and customers. My experience with them was that they lost my subscription for about two months a year ago. Of course the bill for the next year's worth of Publishers Weekly was prompt, but as to the missing 2 months worth of copies they were very noncommittal. This year I've only missed about 5 weeks of issues, which the main office in New York has kindly replaced.

I have noticed that they've changed Circulation Managers twice in the last year. And PW did give ALGOL a really good write-up in their Media listings, in the same issue that Alfred Bester interviewed Ike Asimov. Ah, egoboo! Ah, free SF review books...

HORIZONS (Harry Warner): Your comments to Tackett and Busby's comment about smaller cons have one drawback: the smaller cons keep getting larger. Don Lundry, who ran this year's Lumacon, was going to go in for the usual progress reports and a classified ad in NEW YORK magazine to get people to the con. But Al Schuster got over 300 members from his ad for Star Trek con in NEW YORK magazine, and Lundry got scared and cut out as much publicity as he could. The result: in spite of it, Lumacon went up by 300 attendees to around 1050 -- 1100 attendees this year. And all the other cons keep getting bigger... The cons that LOCUS mentions don't include the comic book, movie and nostalgia conventions. There must be more than 20 of those alone this year, ranging from those with an attendance of only 200 to the New York Comic Con, which will be five full days and expects an attendance of 4000... I'll be going to Disclave not so much for the convention but rather to see Washington a little more, as I've done for the last two years. And with my new camera (I broke down: replaced my Brownie Starflash with

a Konica C35) I expect to take a lot more pictures and see a little more of DC. I suspect my major participation in the Disclave will be to swim in the pool (depending on the ewather, of course), go to the parties, and sell subscriptions to ALGOL.

MEFANOIA (Greg Shaw): Speaking of Len Bailes, I just received back from his former P.O. Box the copies of AIGOL and BEARDNUTTERINGS I'd sent there in late november. If Len will get in touch with me I'll send them to any newer address he can supply. Strange to seek a letter from someone in Milford, Connecticut. That's where I went to school...but some things never change. One of the people working at QUICK FROZEN FOODS went to school with a former classmate of mine; and my 11th Year english teacher now works for Ace Books for their educational division. (Similar ~~was~~ strange things link up in other ways: the contributing editor to OFF International worked with Dave Kyle and Richard Wilson for Trans-Radio Wire Service back in the late 1940's). The Pournelle story was the funniest thing in the issue.

BLIND STARLING (Paul Wyszowski): Remind me to look you up, the very next time I get to Toronto. I went up for George Washington's Birthday Weekend and, according to Mike Glicksohn, managed to hit the coldest weekend of the winter. This is perfectly reasonable, since the last time I was there, in July, was the warmest part of the summer (summer: 98°; winter: windchill of -40°). Spent Saturday walking around scenic downtown Toronto, and made the mistake, Sunday, of going over to take pictures of the trolley barns at Roncesvalle and King. Temperature was something like +5°. Went across that long pedestrian ramp that goes over the Expressway down to the lake front and took a lot of pictures of the 'sum going down and the ducks quacking and splashing. When I noticed that as soon as I took off my gloves to adjust my camera my hands became -- instantly! -- numb, figured I'd better get the heck out and back to somewhere it was Warm. Monday went to see Peter Gill and Derek Carter in the city hall, meant to see Howard Lyons in the TD centre, but forgot... And ended up walking from the Star office at 1 Yonge to Charles Street East (Ken Smookler's office). Whenever I go to Toronto I end up walking a heck of a lot; too much in fact. Would I walk from the UN to the Metropolitan Museum in New York? No; but in Toronto I always end up walking from the waterfront to Bloor street...

There seems to be an active comics fandom in Toronto; held their own convention in March at Yorke University with Stan Lee as G.O.H.

MIRAGE (Jack Chalker): Most interesting article for me was the illumination of the inhabitants of the Lovecraft Circle. I must admit I skipped over much of the other material in the issue: Lovecraft and others in the particular genre that MIRAGE explores aren't of great interest to me. Do suggest you change to a more absorbent paper and oversee the inking a little more closely. But undeniably a true work of love for the field. If you'd bothered to put as much time and energy into this as you have into Mirage Books...

520 07 0328 (Elmer Perdue): Burbee's "I Had Intercourse..." was so damned funny, it had me rolling on the floor. Jeezus, the man can write! And the postscript...it was the subject of conversation at a fanoclast meeting that I can't go into. At times FAPA really isn't a family institution, really, at all...

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