



VANDY #29

from Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route #3,
Hartford City, Indiana, 47348 - for FAPA
Mlg Vol 31 No 2 (this is a number....?)
Lettering up there courtesy of a shaky
hand and in honor of "Dark Shadows", which
I don't watch but a lot of otherwise sane
people seem to....(my syntax is no better
than my hand, sorry; I've been sick).

Juanita here, typing February 2, 1968. I
intend to whop out a fast two stencils, slap
this on the Gestetner and run off the copies
and assemble tonight while watching WILD WILD
WEST, and hopefully we can get this in the
mail tomorrow. Whether it'll make it to
the grand exalted mailing chief by dead-
line is moot, and at this stage of the game
I don't really care.

A few pieces of EGGS AND MARROWBONE now:

Vukat (Patten) Maybe if more of us - even those of us
without a con bid axe to grind - got up and wrote to hotel chains and made
known what we thought of snotty service and general unpleasantness the millenium would ar-
rive and fans would start getting better treatment from hotels. I certainly have a mental
file of complaints from past cons and misadventures with hotels, and the older I get the
more inclined I feel to write in and sound off instead of just sitting there retrospective-
ly grumbling.

No, CRISIS ON CHEIRON wasn't supposed to be particularly heavy reading, and thank you
for the generally kind review. Incidentally, I've somewhat of a problem on characteriza-
tion, because I have so far received totally disparate comments on the characters - about
half your "all cardboard" and half "vivid and real"; now I originally assumed these latter
people were being kind, since I'd read your comment first - but some of them when I asked
them to be honest so I could correct what I did wrong got quite huffy and insisted dammit
they meant what they said about the characters. So now I don't know whether to rethink what
I did on that book or whether to keep plugging along the way I have. Whatever I do, ap-
parently and obviously, will displease someone. Sigh.

DAY*STAR (Marion) Well, I've not had a taste of John Cage, but you've heard us playing
Webern, so maybe we aren't beyond the pale yet. I think I'd reverse "old fashioned"hot!
jazz" and "rock & roll" on your chart....rock isn't really the term I want anyway, but it's
gotten to the stage of defining science-fiction; rock&roll (or r&b or etc) is what we mean
when we point to it.

We bought an electric last October and so far have been pleased with it. Buck's typer
(old upright LCSmith) is on its last legs and would simply not take the steady pounding of
stencil cutting and letter writing, and my portable was useless for stencils. This is an
Electra 120 and cuts rather good stencils...and we like the shift to elite face because it
enables us to get so much more on the page. It hasn't been out of action any more than our
manuals usually are, and the current use is nominal; and we realized that if the power goes
off (which it does now and then) the lights go too - so a manual is equally useless after

4-5pm in six months of the year in the Midwest.

My goshwow is still intact, which may explain why I continue to enjoy STAR TREK so much. And your analogy of Cap Future is dead on target...

Pantapon (Ruth) Yours is the first con report I've read on NyCon that makes me wish I'd been able to go. I'd have liked to chat again. I have some gorgeous work from Kathy Bushman to put on stencil right now...for Spockanalia #2. I took some of her work to the local art club I attend and had the members exclaiming in awe and looking sick when I mentioned her age. I think the closest I ever came to being drunk at a con was at the Detention, of all places, and on beer, of all things; I was mixing the light and dark they served at the beer bust and feeling very alert and with it until I tried to stand up and discovered I had lost all motor control of my legs. It went away very rapidly and I noticed no other effects. Very strange sensation.

Bobolings, (Pavlat). Your comments to Andy reminded me of that "all things feed on death, even vegetarians" which appeared, of all places, on a STAR TREK broadcast...so the idea isn't all that mind croggling, surely. Several doctors have also discussed the pros and cons of vegetarianism interestingly, making the point that to be a strict vegetarian one could not consume dairy products or eggs...and one might have a difficult time ingesting enough solid protein to stay healthy. Peanuts and a few legumes are a fair source of protein, but not as satisfactory as animal protein. And certain vitamins are difficult to find in sufficient quantity any where but in animal products. Of course, I'm of the opinion that man is an omnivore who learned to vary his diet from a largely carnivorous one and see nothing repugnant about eating animal flesh (even though I grew up next to a slaughter house and I've seen and heard what that beefsteak or porkchop goes through before it finally gets dead).

Pong (Tucker) I'm kinda sorry about that lousy pink paper, Tucker, but your stencils arrived at a kind of bad time, and I thought it important to get the zine to the mailer even if I had to use that hard surface stuff from the poor source I have locally. Better luck next time.

Vinegar Worm (Leman) I thought for a bit Buck had absconded with this Worm, but I finally located it. I don't know whether our chat about G120s at Tricon was of any help to you, but this looks a pretty legible issue. You have top and bottom registration problems like me? And I really didn't mean to slight you in my list of proFAPAns last issue of Vandy....sorry. Should we all get together and hold a closed door party at some con? Let's not. That sort of snobbery always irked me.

Self-Preservation (Hoffman) I have a checkmark here by your rhino comments, but can't for the life of me remember what I meant to say - unless...it might have been a rehash of Dick Eney's account of discovering a stuffed rhino in the museum of Stonehenge relics. Your comic book comments echoed my own thoughts, too. We made acid comment in Yandro some time back about how now that the Comics Code was ineffective we could immediately watch the jd statistics take a plunge, couldn't we now? Oddly, I remember some of the furor over the Comics Code when they were bringing it in - including Wertham frothing at the mouth as usual - and I remember thinking that some of their comments were vaild (their, meaning critics), but that they took entirely the wrong extrapolation of the results. Of course comics were full of sadism and subtle sexual perversion undertones (some comics); so were plenty of the radio programs and movies I watched in the same era in which I was reading comics. I considered it a handy way of blowing off steam and I can't say I was inspired to rush out and set fire to a dog or kidnap a small child or even beat up the kids next door. (I might have done that anyway, but not because of comics - with the kid next door it was a case of hit 'em first before they hit you.) But, as you say, isn't it marvelous the way suppressive laws and codes so immediately cure all the ills of society? You might like Big Wyandotte cave in southern Indiana....see it quick before they ruin it with commercialization and tourist trappism (the state just bought it); completely unimproved, and two hour tours with gasoline lanterns and a none too reassuring guide. Exhausting fun.

IT'S MY WAY

by Robert Coulson

FANTASY AMATEUR - I vote the phrase on the cover ("PRESIDENT: see discussion inside") as the best and funniest line in the entire mailing. This is undoubtedly the most interesting FA in years. But I have a question: Why wasn't there a message from the Vice President? Where is Ed Cox now that we need him? (Is it true that Ed Cox is alive and well in Argentina?) I guess I had several questions; they're all related, though. Maybe we could add a motto for FAPA - "A house divided against itself cannot stand." If I'd known that elections could produce this much fun, I might have voted.....

VINEGAR WORM (Leman) Lovely. I've occasionally thought about writing to vanity presses and suchlike, but I never got up the energy to do it. (And I never before heard of this outfit. The only ads I see are for songwriters, fiction writers, etc.) I'm a bit crogled to think that anyone -- even a con man -- would believe in a name like Thurlow Faulbetzer, but I guess it isn't too much worse than some I've seen in newspaper stories.

ALIQUOT (Hevelin) Agreed that handouts are not the answer. How about Wm. F. Buckley's -- more or less facetious -- suggestion that all people accepting welfare (excluding women taking care of children and those too ill to work) report Monday morning for street cleaning, snow shoveling, or any other necessary civic improvement? They would be working for their money, and beautifying America at the same time. (Actually, I think that with a little semantic juggling, it might work -- instead of paying out "welfare", create a number of government jobs with resounding titles and moderate pay. Cleaning up some of the cities I've been in would take care of quite a few of our technologically unemployed, though maybe not all of them.)

SIMULACRA (Lupoff/Gaughan) Obviously, as in the case of science fiction, a "fan" is whoever we mean when we point to him, and in the case of the Hugos, the Con Committee is the logical choice to do the pointing. In this case, I think they used abominable judgment, and I said so. (It's not just a case of bitching after the fact; I objected as soon as I knew you were on the ballot for both awards, and much good it did me.) However, I can't come up with an alternate system which would be an improvement. (An alternate committee, maybe; a system, no.) In this particular case, I think the advantage of a professional in a fan category was far greater than it would have been in previous cons. Numerous fans have made the point that vast numbers of the members of this convention were stf readers who knew nothing of fandom. Obviously, they also knew nothing of fan artists, but they did know the name Gaughan. (Presumably, most of them did not vote at all in the fan category, but I suspect that quite a few of them did.) It is also interesting that only in the artist category can this sort of thing occur. There is no duplication between "best fan writer" and "best pro writer"; the professionals are competing on the basis of individual stories. Possibly a change in category wording would help. Or possibly it wouldn't.

Obviously, of course, if Gaughan is a fan, then he is the best fan artist; there can be very little question of that. The point is that this particular Fan Achievement Award not only did not provide egoboo for fans, as Ted White said he wanted it to do -- it actively embittered more than one young artist. (They know that they are not likely to win a Hugo in competition with older fan artists, but they have a chance. Putting them in the same category as Gaughan makes them feel like a Golden Gloves contestant told to go fight Cassius Clay, or putting a good high school football team on the same field with the Green Bay Packers.)

POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK (Brown) Damned few people under 21 have enough sense to deserve being franchised. The average teen-ager, despite his own opinion, knows less than the average adult (which is damned little indeed). // Not having heard Sam, I can't say whether he deserved being rude to or not, but I agree with you in principle; there is no point in being polite to people who don't appreciate it.

NULL-F (White) That was certainly an interesting con report - now if nobody sues you for libel.... Really. It was the first con report that I've thoroughly enjoyed since Boyd Raeburn did one for CRY or SHAGGY or some such mag 7 or 8 years ago. Of course you don't want to take the Hugo away from fans because you are a pro and hate fans; you want to take the Hugo away from fans because you are Evil and Bitchy and hate everybody. Right? Right.

Frankly, I don't quite see your point about regarding people as individuals. The fact that everyone is an individual does not mean that everyone has equally important opinions, which you seem to imply. I regard everyone as an individual, and I'm quite willing to ignore 90% of them because they are dull individuals, stupid individuals, uninformed individuals, and sometimes all three. (Not quite 90% of fandom, maybe.) And it is quite possible to be selective in ignoring people; I was quite willing to accept one particular engineer's opinion of engineering and ignore his political judgment (he was a member of the John Birch Society, and assured me that I should join). I have no problems at all in choosing my associates, and I try to not include thieves in the lot.

Good comments on Viet Nam.

VUKAT (Patten) I enjoy fine examples of cutting letters, and this was a prize.

SERCON'S BANE (F. Busby) Some people pay list prices because they hate to haggle. I'm one of them; I'm terrible at bargaining. Either I want the object at the price listed, or I don't want it. There is very little in-between. (I recall walking out of a store once with the clerk running after me and lowering the price as he came; I wasn't going to buy it at his original price, and the more he talked the less I wanted it at all.) Rather surprisingly, I fare reasonably well at auctions; I know how much I am prepared to pay and I do not get stampeded over that amount. (I also glower at competing bidders, which may or may not help.)

As far as I can see, each member of FAPA should have one vote. If more than one person is included in a membership, then they should be able to split their one vote in any way they choose -- each casting $\frac{1}{2}$ vote, presumably, in the case of two people. Giving one member 2 votes and the other members one vote each is equivalent to stuffing the ballot box. If two people insist on two votes, then let them keep up two memberships.

Damned right; summer jobs are to make money, not to expand one's mental horizons. I never had your variety, though. Major summer job around Silver Lake, Ind. was weeding onions. Muck soil; rich black stuff with the consistency of powdered graphite when dry and axle grease when wet. Get out in that on a hot, windless July day, on your knees (or bending over, if you preferred) and pull weeds. But it paid real money -- and gave you the knowledge that you weren't entitled to the good things in life just because you wanted them. Actually, I was lucky...I got a real cushy job between my freshman and sophomore high school years. I was caretaker of the local cemetery. (Really quite easy, except for gravedigging in frozen ground.)

SELF-PRESERVATION (Hoffman) Never tasted candied octopus, but I tried pickled octopus once and it tasted like salty rubber. You probably were just as well off with the pigs ears, whatever they tasted like.

I'm no western fan, but there are more western writers that I like than there are detective writers that I like. I'll go with Frank Spearman and Robert Alexander Wason against any detective writer of their day, and I always liked Luke Short even if he does use the same plot in every book. It's a plot I like. Of course, Spearman cheated by using actual events in his books -- that is, he would take actual occurrences, give everyone a fictional name, and work the action into the plot of his book. Helped the realism no end.

RESIN (Metcalf) Be nice if you'd comment on FAPA sometime. If I wanted to read comments on SAPS mags, I'd join SAPS.

EPIMETHEUS (Speer) What do restrictions of form, as in the sonnet, have to do with restrictions in time, as in scripting "Star Trek"? Aside from the fact that ST has also had some pretty good work, your comparison doesn't seem to hold water.

Shibano's fanzine is in Japanese characters. It appears to be professionally printed.

People who comment on fanzine alphabetically, or in the order in which they appear in the bundle, baffle me. (Come to think of it; does anyone really do this? I hear about it, but then I hear about a lot of things that aren't so.) When I get a bundle, I go thru it and pick out my favorites to read first...anyone who slights a friend or an interesting writer just because he's on the bottom of the stack is an idiot. Fanzines by FAPANS that I'm not much interested in get skimmed, or ignored. (Sometimes the entire bundle gets ignored, of course.)

Yes, if we'd followed the motto "Conscription is for slave-holders, not liberators," the Civil War would have ended sooner. Of course, the South would have won...

I don't always stencil my mailing comments while reading the mailing -- that is, while first reading the mailing, which I assume is what you meant. I do it about half the time. Now then, check back over past VANDYs and see if you can tell which times I commented while reading and which times I commented after reading. (Of course, some times you can tell because I mention it in the issue, but how about the others?)

Agreed on live music vs. recordings.

OMAHA (Stiles) Enjoyed but no comments

BOBOLINGS (Pavlat) "The Ugly American" was fine. Trouble is that there are not enough individuals of that sort to make much of a dent in the world's problems, and trying to systematize it only seems to lead to bureaucracy. I wonder how the Peace Corps is doing? There was a good idea....

DIFFERENT (Moskowitz) Amazing how stf critics can't stand one another.... Obviously, no author can be completely objective about his own work, except, perhaps, for pot-boilers written solely for ready cash. Otherwise, if he didn't like his own work, he wouldn't write it that way in the first place. Therefore, authors who use pen-names in order to discuss their own work are, shall we say, not being very honest with their readers. (Shall we say hypocrisy? No, let's don't; it might offend someone.) This applies to any author, no matter how honest he thinks he is being.

PANTOPON (Berman) Enjoyed.

HORIB (Lupoff) Amen on the novel writing. Writing the entire novel in advance has no advantages that I can see, and one hell of a lot of disadvantages, including the one of discouraging new authors. The sort of author who has the drive and self-confidence and spare time necessary to write an entire novel without knowing whether he can sell it or not is the sort of author who ends up with a vanity press, more often than not.

HORIZONS (Warner) Fans "in the fanzine and convention sense" were responsible for one hell of a lot more than 50 letters to "Star Trek". In addition to our own letters -- 3 or 4 from me, a dozen or so from Juanita, several from other fans we know, there is the response from Juanita's Cub Scout den, Lee Tremper Lavell's grade school class, and whatever response Gene DeWeese's placards in the Milwaukee Public Library drew. I doubt that "our" fandom wrote the entire 70,000, but I could believe well over 1000. "Star Trek" imbues some fans with the missionary spirit, or maybe the crusading spirit. (It's the same sort of response that Damon Knight is trying to get on magazine distribution; trouble is that few fans that I know give much of a damn about the magazines anymore.)

DYNATRON (Tackett) Good, as usual. Don't blame science-fiction upbringing; nobody in the field of semi-pornography can write about people with any degree of realism.

Thus ends the mailing comments. The rest of the mags fall in two categories; somewhat interesting but with nothing about which I can comment, and deadly dull. Guess which batch yours is in.

A few lines to finish off the stencil; Ed Cox can go doodle in someone else's mag. I aim to get my money's worth out of this paper. This is the time of year when I total up my bills and discover that they amount to more than my bank account. Annoying, especially when it happens annually. Somehow, I usually manage to catch up during the year.

LETTER COLUMN

REDD BOGGS, P.O. Box 1111, Berkeley, California 94701

VANDY #28 is to hand.

Arithmetic is not my strong point, but I do think that 49,562 plus 438 adds up to 50,000. Ackorman claims Pickering "walked off with half my house" -- crammed, he says, with "about 100000 items of scifiana." Isn't 50,000 half of the total? All clear now?

I see no statement in The Nohwon Review #4 that says that I think "fandom shouldn't be hard on (Pickering) because he's a civil rights worker." I did say that civil rights activity doesn't seem to constitute evidence of "Mental instability".

Where is the "vicious attack" on Ackorman? I said, among other things, "Forry strikes me as having one of the best potentials for greatness" (in fandom)...Forry... was on the right side in more than one fan controversy...Perhaps Forry just isn't vicious enough to be a good fan." All this is a "vicious attack"?

Many thanks for your non-invitation to your house. It is pretty gratuitous, as you say, since I have not sought entry into your house, or (so far as I remember) ever attempted to be invited to your house. You are, alas, not a person I'd care much to visit. But I do thank you very much for the honor you have bestowed on me.

Since I am a member of FAPA, perhaps it would be best for you to resign? Go ahead. Avoid being contaminated.

Reply by RSC - If you can't even recognize a vicious attack when you write one yourself, then my guess must have been right and you are intellectually inferior to Pickering. (I don't really think so, though.) And if you think I'm going to repeat your slander just to document a case you aren't thinking too clearly, either. Anybody who wants to know what those "other things" you wrote were can get a copy of Nohwon Review.

As to resigning, what gave you the idea that you were big enough to contaminate all FAPA?

I seem to have part of a page to fill, inasmuch as the only other letter I received on VANDY #28 consisted of one question -- "Why were you so lenient with Boggs?" Because I'm basically tender-hearted, I guess.

I might mention in here Jim Harmon's new book, THE GREAT RADIO HEROES I suppose that everyone who went through it has his own impressions of the days of radio drama. Harmon couldn't cover everything, and he omitted some of the programs I'd have liked to see in, and some of the information I'd have appreciated getting. But it's still a great book, to be recommended to all old-time radio buffs. (The lack of an index is, as Don Thompson pointed out, more of a drawback if you intend to use the book for reference, but it isn't really a reference book anyway; it's nostalgia.) A truly enormous number of programs are covered, or at least mentioned. (And Harmon is another "I Love A Mystery" fan, which more than makes up for any deficit.) Get a copy.

An even better book is L. Sprague de Camp's THE GREAT MONKEY TRIAL. De Camp is at his best in detailing the oddities connected with the Scopes trial. In addition to being definitive, the book is highly entertaining. I just finished reading this one a few days ago, and I'm still glowing. (Sprague has problems, though; he's the only sword-and-sorcery writer who has to issue a disclaimer at the front of his books -- see THE TRITONIAN RING, just published in paperback. "Just because I write about Atlantis doesn't mean I believe in it....")

I think the other half of Thomas Stratton has been watching Father Groppi too much on Milwaukee tv. He keeps coming up with these stories with religious kickers.....

May FAPAns (with certain exceptions) enjoy a prosperous and happy 1968.