



Henry Ackermann

# FANATIC

Got quiet a kick out of the current N'APA mailing and the numerous grotches about my antipathy for apa snobs. Anshell invites me to read a number of genzines. Funny part of the list of genzines he mentioned is that I not only have been reading them before he entered fandom but in past year have had letters pubbed in most of them at some time or other, and find myself mentioned more often than I've seen his name anywhere in them. As for naming names of apa snobs I still see no point in doing so.

But what I want to make clear here and now is that I have no particular grudge against anyone just because they belong to some apa or other or to a number of apa's for that matter. My grotch is against those who consider this the only type of fanac that really means anything. and now on to the mailing comments, although one of these days there's going to be a fanatic sans mailing comments altogether.

RACHE 4, N'APA TEN. Well you might make fine archivist at that. There are a number of people interested in that sort of thing, including one new Neffer, Dave Hulan, 132 Goss Circle 9B, Rdstone Arsenal. Wonder if it would be practical and possible for you and he and others who go for cataloging and classifying such as Clay Hamlin and others to form a archivists union or association for purpose of dividing the work between the gang. Then you could get together and stencil a annual report for all fans.

DUSK ONE - Well for first zine I think you did a fine job indeed and wish more like you were recruited to N'APA.

Interesting that comment of yours re composing on stencil. Frankly it has been my experience that every time I rewrite something it looks a little worse than the first time. So I compose direct on stencil and seldom stop to read what the heck I have written. Somehow rewriting and recomposing and editing something seems to draw out all the spontaneity and sparkle and makes the thing read very mundane and prosaic to say the least. Of course this might not hold good for others. I know one pro author was supposed to have rewritten every paragraph a dozen times before finally placing in the script of his story. and all I can say is that at three cents a word or so this is hard and tedious labor for very poor pay indeed. I wonder though how many times people like Heinlein and Asimov rewrite their golden epics before submitting to publishers. Might be good question for authors panel at some future world con.

Well the thing about mailing comments is that if you ignore the other fellows he's fairly certain to ignore yours. Sort of mutual admiration society in a way. At that though I suspect you'll get more mailing comments in next bundle than most of us.

As for fans being result of mental mistake I suspect all humans are more or less



of some kind of mistake. As for fans there is no doubt that some are psychotic and most suffer some mild neurosis, but no more so than any category of human you care to pick in the upper iq brackets that is. I suspect fans have found fan-dom a place where they can achieve some degree of appreciation and respect which is denied them in mundania. Also I suspect many fans are truly lonesome people.. Thus they turn to fandom for the social life they cannot otherwise achieve in mundania.

Well just dont forget that you have to have six pages of self written copy in each issue of DUSK. Thus all those co-tribs your soliciting might prove rather a pensive in the long run. Why not just fan like the rest of the gang for a while till you have the experience to turn out a fanzine?

England almost excellent place to dispose of surplus books and mags. They are drug o market this side of pond though.

MEGALOSCOPE - Well I personally would far rather the whole mailing were like your MEGALOSCOPE. Only thing is how do the gang know who the gang reacted to their zines without mailing comments. One idea might be to write personal letters to the other editors and stick to general discussion and things of general interest in the zine itself. Then if there was enough feedback in the letters the recipient might put the thing in his own zine.

Highly laudable to want to turn out books fit for the very young to read. Only trouble with writing or pubbing such books is there are so very many people to be pleased before such book can be sold. First the parents want something that will be all-sweetness and light for guidance of their darlings. Seems most parents feel if they can't set the perfect example for their kids then the author and teacher should do so for them. Wonder though what juvenile reading would look like if only the readers were to decide what to include.

And taking about teaching I often wonder how long it will be before we start having most of the teaching done by means of motion picture films and automatic machinery. I note that many schools are now resorting increasingly to closed circuit television, and from there its only a step to planning the whole curricula from films which sowed the highest student response in years past.

Another gimmick I noticed somewhere was a machine with series of questions with maybe eight buttons indicating alternate answers for student to push. If he pushes wrong button then the machine flashes explanation of the mistake made and the student then returns and does the problem over again. Advantage of this is that each student develops and learns at his own pace without waiting for slower students or without missing things because he couldn't keep up with the class.

If your really interested in religions and faiths of all types including ZEN and the Occult eastern beliefs I would suggest reading THE PATH OF THE MASTERS by Doctor Julian Johnson. An american surgeon who spent years in India investigating Yoga and occult beliefs and the arcane sciences and wrote it all up in one book. Fascinating reading for any who are interested in the occult though.

Wish Bjo and Co would issue a folio of the best art at the worlcons though. Something for those who must stay at home and missthis event.

Well you better drop FANATIC from your reading matter if typos and smudges give you the willies like it at, for thats going to be characteristic of FANATICS for a long time to come. I compose directly on stencil and regard FANATIC as more of letter direct to all of you than a fanzine. Of course I'd like to have it all highly legible, but this is not the

PESKYS NINE - Wonder if any fans have though or using drafting board, Tee Square and lettering guides in cutting their stencils. Some of the drafting boards have sufficient gimmicks to enable even the normally clumsy fan to turn out so a pretty good stencil style using. Also that tee square would assure straight lines for the letterings.

Suggest you type on multi-lith masters for your 14 pt directory typer. If you use the machine then no doubt you could also use the multi-lith also. Wonder if friend Harness will allow full page credit for that as a thought. If he does the whole N'APA might come up with 14 point types.

When you publish something calculated to bring a blast from someone its incumbent upon you personally to see copy falls in their hands. I seriously doubt if Prosser would have risen to your bait if he had seen it though. Personally I concur in everything he said.

HIPPOCALORIC - Re your remarks re Campbell and what next society will be like. I suggest it might be polygamous and polyandrous to boot. As of now there is definite trend towards prices skyrocketing faster than wages can possibly keep up with them. Thus the average family has to have more than one breadwinner merely to keep alive. Result we might end up with half a dozen guys marrying half a dozen gals and then accepting new brides and grooms to the hive as they go along. Advantages would be ten of the dozen gals and guys could work leaving two of them to work the house and do the cooking making and the like. Also raising the kids of course. Thus with some eighty percent of the hive bringing home paycheck they should be in far better economic position to cope with society.

In event of depression and large scale unemployment it would be simply to grab an old farm and raise their own food and thus save the dollars for real essentials.

Another point is with rising costs of service men it would be better to marry them than to hire them. Yes such drive would be most repulsive to the old fashioned monogamist, but most advantageous for the hivist.

DEVIL RITTER - Well there always will be a rotating membership in NSF if only by reason that it is perfect org for neo fan. All its activities can be carried out with typer or even ballpoint for that matter with the exception of N'APA. And in participating in the Neffer activities the fan does acquire his roster of correspondents and learns to write for one fanzine or another and soon develops to the point where he is no longer dependant upon correspondence based activities for his fanac. So he drops out. Not because he isn't anything for him to do, but he has committed himself to so many things something has to give and since he no longer wants new correspondents or new fanacs here drops the NSF and goes on to other things.

And all this is no reflection on the fan or on NSF. And for that matter everything you say could be said about genfandom too. People drift in, fan a while, lose interest and go on to something else. I see no reason why this should change.

As to activity there is plenty of opportunity for average neffer to start his own fanac if he has but a little initiative and is willing to work at it. If the membership wanted more and different activities they could and would go about starting some on their own hook. Certainly they don't need the directorate to hold their little hands while they are doing so.

And just for you and Mike Moloney fan friends aint particularly faithful. I got a roster of some three hundred correspondents here who no longer correspond. If all of them ever did start corresponding again I'd be snowed under or sure. God bless the status quo.

As for the spa fans all I ask of them is that they mind their own business and not knock knock NSF merely because it happens to be the fashion to do so. They are welcome to fan in their way and I'll fan in mine. I have no desire to change them or their organizations.

8

PARADOX 2 Sorry about not sending your prozines. However I simply haven't been receiving any for past four or five months and thus there are none to send. I promised you would get the next two to arrive and I propose to keep that promise. In the meantime why don't you correspond anymore.

Not pornography so much as threats to paper toilets of Mailing ed with fanzines that so much as dared to discuss sex in any way. Fortunately this is no longer a danger as far as I can understand. More a civil liberties and freedom of expression fight than anything else.

It seems to me Franson could effect most of the improvements he proposes for N3F without waiting to be elected. And if he buckled down and did something towards that end he would have far better chance to get my vote. Sure N3F could stand lots of improvement, and most of the things Franson discusses could be achieved by any determined group of men of good will. And I'm sure Holland and the directorate would render every assistance possible to them. However till better men come along my vote is going to be for Hayes and Holland. In the meantime actions speak louder than words.

Just came across a terrific fanzine edited by one of our own NAPA members. Suggest all of you write Lg McCombs, 145 Bradley St. New Haven, Connecticut for a copy. I sure hope someone will nominate the thing for the big HUGO at next worldcon incidentally. Stands head and shoulders above most of the fanzines and right up there in top ten with Void, Yandro and Discord.

SADOM 7/6. You know I wonder just how many readers of the genfanzines there are and if most of the subscription lists don't more or less duplicate each other. Your statistics might be quite accurate for all I know, but then again they might not. However just what difference does this make. People are joining N3F and having fun and fanning and gradually acquiring the skills necessary for a gay fandom. As for me I could find more fannac in N3F than I could possibly handle, and if I do say so myself I handle more than most. Trouble is so many people don't consider mere corresponding to be really fanning. Yet to most people it is the only possible type fanning save for those lucky souls who live in Los Angeles, Newark or New York or Seattle where there are local groups meeting. And just incidentally don't be too surprised if you find the membership bumping 300 rather than mere 200. There have been a heck of a lot of recruits this past year. And I should know for I welcomed a lot of them personally to the ranks.

Still maintain the apas do not recruit. They merely skim off the cream of the N3F recruits who actually recruit themselves with little or no effort on part of the apa groups. And to my way of thinking this is just the way things should be. An active and aggressive N3F drawing recruits from the masses of non fan readers and funneling them into the apa groups and other groups as well like SASFS and C Y. And no one in N3F minds constructive criticism. What galls me is people who don't know what they are talking about taking N3F over the coals. And if you want names I'll give them to you in personal correspondence if and when you ask in personal letters. However my reply will of course be DNO.

AsV substitute - Well you sure make the coast guard sound fascinating. Hope you always find the ocean so smooth on sea duty though. North Atlantic can be mighty rough, especially in the wintertime. Wonder what you'll have to say about it in next mailing.

CRY OF THE WILD MOOSE - Well that oo eximae candy store sounds something like the old Japanese Imperialist Co Existence deal before WWII. Les Airenburg must be quiet a guy from your descriptions of him however.

Suggest you get further details about the photocopying process for benefit of fandom at large. Most of us wouldn't even know where to begin asking locally about something like that.

That's no joke about possibly being accident prone, and it wouldn't be bad idea to consult a psychologist about it if your getting in accidents too often.

Well I heard the veterans advice to the rooky just a little bit different. The way I heard it it was Keep your mouth shut, your bowels wide open and never ever volunteer!"

N'EFFERSCENT - Sounds like B.O. advertisement that title of yours. And as for trading your zine for other apazines the only alternative is to write letters of comment on each zine arriving. That's what most fanzines are for. To exchange for other fanzines.

Think after all these years we might better stick to the historic emblem of NSF. One reason being there have been a number of cuts made of it already and thus its available for printing purposes. You and the others have mostly seen copies of my old Netter Stationary which compares favorably in price and quality with anything available anywhere in local print shops. And just incidentally Ralph Holland tried out this stationary on mimeo and found it makes excellent mime paper. Thus thousand mastheads could be run off with large print and emblem and thus give ambitious faned egoboo.

If you really want to use hecto occasionally the best bet is to get one of these rolls of hecto gel mounted on brown heavy paper. You can make up to ten different pages at the time that way and about the only other equipment you need are the hecto inks and carbon. Clay mentioned using Spirit duplicator masters for varicolour hecto work incidentally and put out some pretty fine work by this method.

Frankly I suspect a large percentage of the apa groups do their recruiting directly from the ranks of NSF. Also frankly I see nothing wrong with a fan getting his niche in an apa group and quietly snoring for the rest of his life and thoroughly enjoying himself in the process. What I object to is the sneering some of them indulge in about neo fans and NSF. As for the quality of the various apa zines I have no doubt many of them are tops. Since that's their sole fanac this is understandable.

As for me investigating apas I suppose if and when the times comes that I can acquire the duplicating equipment, funds and experience necessary to participate in apa groups I might place myself on the waiting lists of same, although to be frank with all of you I'm far more inclined to explore possibilities of starting new apa groups or another type apa. The quads in NSF are an experiment in this direction, and no doubt my correspondents will go along with me in other ideas too as we go along. Right now I'm looking for a wrinkle or gimmick that will combine apa and letterzine in such a way that there will be no limitation on the membership. Especially in NSF I think some strong efforts should be made to make all activities available to all members.

EPHEMERA Coswalsine - Wish you, Bruce Pele, Jamie Lamb and the others who specialize in fan files and collecting and disseminating information could get together and form some kind of organization and split up the work between you if only to avoid duplication of effort. David Hulan would like to work at filing for fandom incidentally. Why not start a round robin or even pub a gensine for all interested and see if you can't get something started that would be a credit to NSF and an asset to all fandom.

SEVEN EYES OF NINGBALE - I always turn green with envy when someone like you comes out with micro elite typing and still gets it clear and legible as you did. Wonder what the secret is anyhow. So many have told me micro elite comes out like series of black streaks when used on stencil.

You're quite right of course. NSF has little to offer anyone not interested in correspondence. And outside of local fan groups such as ESFA most fandom is based on some form of correspondence or other. Even the apa groups in a way are but highly efficient multiple forms of correspondence. Thing is the neo fan can acquire the experience for more difficult types of fanning in NSF. But abandoned communication of ideas through the mails and there would be damn little left of fandom. Doubt if even the World Cons would be such outstanding events if the participants didn't keep in touch through the mails in between cons.



Try Frædriok Browns NIGHTMARES AND GELZELSTÆKS for lewd and obscene matter for mailing if you really want to pb that sort of thing. Also Thorne Smith had some lovelies in his novels. Or just get oldfashioned and stick to Balzacs DROLL TALES which should keep you supplied with material for next years mailings for that matter.

I have an idea you would enjoy Goldens ENJOY ENJOY now out in pcketbook form. In one page he asks what engineer would permit the public to tell him his business for which he is trained the way the PTA attempts to rule highly trained and skilled educators. That fellow has more common sense and philosophy in one page than many authors manage in their lives work. In fact I think most of N'APAs would enjoy ENJOY ENJOY or FOR TWO CENTS PLAIN and ONLY IN AMERICA by the same author.

Read somewhere of process whereby coal was burned right in the mine to produce gas which could be piped to run diesels or steam generators and thus convert to electricity. Seems to me something like aluminum industry which needs great deal of power might profit by some such deal. Set the factory or foundry up there and use the coal to generate current to operate the factory and of course light the homes and you'd have almost a self sustained economy there.

NEEULOUS #5 - Seems that Fan Hilton gang can do just about anything but correspond. They all draw a line there. And just incidentally I wavy you your repro with hecto. I only wish I could do something nearly as good without those awful plank spots due to air bubbles under master or copy or both. Even tried rolling the things with a bottle but still got the confounded spots.

Not one single spot, blot or dimness in your whole zine. Congratulations on a hard job well done. How about writing up the process of just how you achieved this.

I have no objections to postmailings. However postmailed fanzines will not get momented upon in FANATIC mainly because I take the bundle and comment direct on stencil till I've covered them all. Don't even read them before sitting down at type. So if a member wants to postmail I think we should be grateful that he saved ME the trouble and expense of including in bundle and adding to postage for said bundle of course. Wonder how many of the other N'APAs have more or less the same policy.

FANZINE - Well thanks a million for the moral support. Don't look like I got my ideas across to the others though and thus no doubt to them it will seem I'm continuing to rant about apa snobs. Hope to read detailed report by you on SEACON one of these days soon. Wonder how much it would cost to tape all the speeches at a world con and then rent or sell said tapes to outfits like ALSFS and ESRA for stay at home fandom to get chance to hear the real events at the worldcon. Personally I'm just a bit fed up with the average name dropping type con report.

NAPA YAP - I have recommended you and your printing service to more than one fan who wrote you and recieved no reply. Seems to me you need a corresponding secretary or someone who will answer the mail for you and the rest of the fan Hill Mob. Wonder how many prospective N'APA members have been lost due to this reluctance to answer your mail. It certainly does not inspire confidence even if you are a WKF.

And that winds up this contrib for N'APA. Hope this findall of you in best of health, I remain;

Fanatic ally yours

Seth A Johnson