

## VAUX HALL FANATIC

I am going to try an experiment in fanzine and publishing. I am going to try typing on master or rather composing on master and not going in so much for mailing comments which are rather superfluous to begin with, but rather sort of editorializing on these comments in the other fanzines without allways mentioning the fanzine I use for a springboard.

For instance there is considerable criticism of Judy Sephton for being over harsh in her criticism of Forman. And although Forman is a much valued friend of mine I can still understand Judy's attitude. I especially of a kick out of Bjo's comments on Judy, for the main reason for Judy's misbehaviour is the same thing that characterizes our Bjo. An intense enthusiasm for whatever project or idea they happen to be plugging at the time. This very enthusiasm that has enabled Bjo to put over Project Art Show and build LASFS from a rapidly disintegrating fan group into one of the top fan clubs in the country.

So to me the problem is to channel Judy's enthusiasm and energy into constructive channels rather than to kick her in the teeth even though we consider her to be wrong. And I'm sure Judy is going to be a shining asset to both NSF and N'APA before she is finished.

I wonder though if some psychologist or Scientologist in our ranks can explain why it is exclusively femme fans who are jumping all over the lovely Judy.

Gem Carr had some mighty good ideas as result of editing TIGHT-BEAM. And there really is room for another fanzine in NSF consisting of letterhacking and mailing comments instead of the type letters we should have in TIGHTBEAM. I just wonder if it would be practical to have a third publication to be distributed to the membership at the expense of the people who sound off in it.

In other words sort of a glorified N'APAZine for general consumption rather than slanted at our own N'APA ingroup. Possibly the cost of such zine could be broken down into cost per page for distribution of 400 odd copies which I believe will be average membership next year if there are not too too many drop outs comes New Years.

The letterhack could then cut his letter on stencil and even have it suitably illustrated or ornamented by his favorite fan artist and then pay a fee for having it included in the Neffer LETTERHACK which I'll dub the zine for future reference purpose.

At one time I had hoped to start something of the sort by just letting the quad letters expand adding one participant after another till we could switch over to spirit duplicator. In fact I almost had the thing started with Tom Armistead acting as the publisher over a year ago. However it was a case of too many cooks spoiling the soup and by the time we got through arguing just how the thing should operate the potential members had dropped out in disgust and a darn fine quad dropped dead in the process.

But essentially the idea is not a bad one. It eliminates the necessity for a duplicator and a great deal of skill in order to sound off and voice your opinion without having it edited totally out of context by some fumblebrained faned or other as has happened with my own TIGHTBEAM letters for instance.

I'd really like to hear what the rest of N'ARA thinks about this.

As to N'ARA elections I am voting for Fred Patton for the reason that he has done fine job and theres no point changing horses in the middle of the stream. When you have a good man at the helm its best to stick with him rather than to switch to an unknown quantity.

and then we come to NSF elections. This will not affect the voting in any way since the elections are over to all intents and purposes with this writing. At least I have sent my ballot in for both NSF and N'ARA and presume the rest of you have done likewise.

My main gripe though is that we know so very little about the candidates. Even those who allready served on the Directorate have left little record of their activities that the rank and file membership can examine in their efforts to choose a proper directorate for their government.

Sometimes I wish we had an impartial body to evaluate each candidate for Presidency and directorate. Someone or some people who would tell us just what said candidate has done in the past and what their policies have been and how they have voted and why in the past and how they are likely to vote in the future. And to do this properly youd really have to start lining up the candidates sometime in March so all could be discussed and debated over and compared to each other long before the official ballots went out.

Now there is no reason all this couldn't be done without any particular change in our by laws or constitution. No reason why a group like say Bjo, Buzz Busby, Art Hayes, Janie Lamb and perhaps two or three other elder fen who might be expected to know the people in NSF and their potential capacities as leaders and their potential contribution laborwise to Directorate activity.

In other words what I'm getting at is that the member cannot vote intelligently for lack of information. I do wish the whole N'APA would indulge in a spirited discussion on just how this very important information could be gotten into the hands of the membership before the ballots are distributed, and how they themselves could discuss the candidates and compare them to each other before the ballots are distributed.

Now that once more N'APA has a waiting list I think it time to discuss doing something for the people who will be sweating out said waiting lists. Unlike ordinary apa's who have no one to consider but their own membership we are part of an organization of 400 people or more. And it seems to me that all phases of Neffer fanag should be open to these people.

One thing that might be done is to have a special mimeographed fanzine just for the waiting listers. A fanzine where he could pub his ideas and comments and which would be distributed to all the waiting listers plus N'APA itself. And here again we might use the method of letting the waiting lister cut his own stencils and mail to the Waiting List Editor for inclusion in next issue. He would of course pay some modest sum such as fifty cents per page for instance to the Editor or rather the Publisher, since he wouldn't be ~~much~~ editing anything if it were allready cut on stencil. Just running off and collating plus of course any stencils he himself cared to cut in addition.

Another advantage to this is that if the waiting list grew long enough we could well start a brand new apa in N3F with just the waiting listers, and extending the privilege of belonging to both to all.

Just think if N3F continues to expand at its present rate of almost 100 per year. It might well mean that under the above plan we might wind up with half a dozen apa groups all under N3F auspices.

For the past five years I have been operating the Fanzine Clearing House. The main purpose in starting the thing in the first place was to provide a liaison between the science fiction reader and fandom. At first I was naive enough to feel the professional editors like Campbell and others would be interested in building fandom if only because it would promote readership of their prozines.

After the late Ralph Holland gave me credentials I canvassed all the New York prozines in hopes of at least getting an announcement in their pages of the fanzine clearing house and also sent letters to some 200 faneds I could get listings of at that time. I think ten faneds responded and just one Pro Ed. RAN Lowndes. He at least printed my letter and as result some twenty recruits were brought into N3F.

The only fanzines I had to offer were N3F official publications which both Ralph Holland and Art Hayes saw too it I had supply of on hand plus those fanzines I grubbed by means of writing LOC's to every fanzine that came my way.



So then I started advertising in Ziff Davis publications AMAZING and FANTASTIC. These have been bringing in something like fifty to seventy five purchases of fanzine bundles per year and something like twenty or more members for N3F. Also our local fan group ESFA have gained some ter members through the FCH although I doubt if they know this. But if a customer is in the Metropolitan area of New York New Jersey Connecticut I generally tell him or her about the ESFA meetings and quite a few of them show up.

However there is one characteristic about those who respond to Ziff Davis advertisements. They are usually teen age students. Evidently most of their readers are teenagers and thus in past few years the recruiting to N3F has been larger number of teenagers then normally would be attracted. And this is all to the good since these teenagers do grow up and some of them achieve BNF hood eventually. So I propose to go right on with the Ziff Davis advertisements. The trouble is though that I cannot seem to acquire sufficient fanzines to fill all the orders as it is. Outside of John Boardman who is not even a member of N3F and SPAGGY none of the established and well known faneds send more then single copies. And these are for letters of comment rather then any desire to support recruiting through FCH.

So I would like to see some well known and popular faned who recieves lots and lots of fanzines in trade for his own take over and start another Fanzine Clearing House. Not in competition to my own but as a supplement to it. A self sustaining supplement incidentally since I cant spare a cent or an hour to help whoever takes on the task.

Said faned would simply put another ad in F&SF similar to my own but with his own name and address and recieve orders from N&SF readers. I do believe this would result in a stream of older and more mature recruits. Not as large as mine perhaps for I do appeal to younger and more numerous crowd and reach more people. But the lower cost of a single ad like that might possibly make the project self sustaining. I myself lose money on the deal since the bundles cost up to 75¢ to mail and I pay fifty bucks per year for the advertisement.

I have already stenciled supplementary list of FCH subscribers which I hope will be ready in time to be stapled into this issue of FANTASTIC which Arnie Katz is running off for me. However the list is on gestetner stencil and being run off by John Boardman. I have asked John to forward fifty copies to Arnie so they can be stapled in so all N'APA will be able to send fanzines and letters to these people and try to recruit them to fangdom.

Also if you N'APA'ns notice people on this list in your immediate neighborhood and there happens to be a fan club in this area it would be courteous to notify the fan club of this sf reader and notify the reader about the fan club and their meeting dates.

And here is just a few more people who didn't quite fit in on the Gestetner stencil or who arrived since I mailed the stencil to John.

T Goodyear, P.O. Box 5491, Midland, Texas  
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 Richard Marx, 131 Belt Road, APO 845 New York N.Y. 00804  
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 William H Desmond, TH3, USS KANGAROO, (MSC 194) P.F.O. New York City  
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It would be nice if each of you would send copy of your fanzine to each of these people plus a personal letter urging them to join N3F. I just wish Directorate would cooperate with me to the extent of furnishing me with a recruiting fanzine to enclose in these bundles describing N3F and its fanec and also enclosing an application blank.

I wish every one of you N3Fans out there would volunteer for just one round robin. I'm in the midst of welcoming 31 neofans to N3F right this minute and of course am inviting each of them to participate in a round robin. But I can't very well put neo in second or even third place on route sheet with his very first robin. For this I need elder fen like yourselves.

I would also like to get some volunteers to participate in some science robins. Volunteers for this should apply direct to Science Mayor Al Andriuskevicius, 2730 Burnside St. Detroit 12 Michigan 48212. He is going to launch them and volunteers should be science mayors in college or better. Obviously such robins would be too deep for fan like myself, so I'm not participating although I'm plugging the thing wherever possible. Al also majors in clinical Psychology so have fun with him gang. Especially Judy Sappthorn and Ed Meskies who should take to this one like a duck takes to water.

Does anyone know of cheap source of kraft 12 x 16 envelopes in the Eastern area, especially around New York. I need them for ECU and have not been able to obtain satisfactory envelopes yet. I purchase 100 at the time by the way.

Al Andriuskevicius mentioned that he is getting information about Fairy Chess from Paul and Karen Anderson through Ed Meskies. I just wish Ed would coax Al to write the thing up and then publish in his own fanzine. Now if only all of us could publish terrific fanzines like Meskies does. Even FAFA members would then envy us to be sure.

I wonder if some fan in N'APA could start an Art Bureau. Not to distribute artwork so much as to list fanartist willing to do illos and faneds wanting illos and introducing the two to each other. It would be mainly a matter of listing names and addresses of both and mailing to all on monthly or bi monthly basis. The faned and artist could then get in touch with each other and Art Bureau would not be responsible for any snafu. Merely responsible for enabling artist and faned to contact each other to their mutual advantage.

It does seem to me that some such service would be of value to both faned and the fanartist. Especially neofaneds and neofanartists neither of whom know where to appeal for help or markets or appreciation.

We already have a Manuscript Bureau. How well it functions I have not the slightest idea since all I know is what has been announced in TNFF. But there is one other service that I think the neofanned might really appreciate. I'd like to kick it around here and see what the rest of you think about it.

So often neofans have written me asking to whom they should send their precious new fanzines. I of course send them the PCM list suggesting they try it for starter plus those faneds with whom they would like to trade. But it seems to me there is a crying need on the part of the neofaneds for a roster of readers of fanzines who write publishable mailing comments or LOC's and respond in some way to the fanzine.

Now if only each N'APA member would list those people who always respond with publishable LOC's or articles why per aps one member could make up a list of them for benefit of the future neofaneds. Once a year or so you'd weed out the gaffates and bring it up to date with some new and more enthusiastic people. But by and large the same list could be used year after year.

I can just imagine the faces of the people on this list though when without their knowledge or consent they find themselves on the mailing list of every crudzine published. And find their letterboxes stuffed with ream after ream of damp sticky overinked crudzines totally illegible from cover to cover.

Still there is a fairly good chance they would write the neofan and explain just what they thought of his fanzine. Probably they would have to type the thing out on asbestos lest it burst into flame before even leaving their tripewriters.

Al Andriuskevicius whose name and address are mentioned elsewhere in FANATIC is starting up a Jetan club. This is members of N3F who are sufficiently interested in Martian chess as described in Burroughs' CHESSMEN OF MARS to try make up a jetan set of their own and start playing through the mails.

Evidently they are having quite a ball with it for more than one of my correspondents have mentioned playing in it. N'APA members who are interested might contact Al on their own hook and maybe a formal department in N3F could be started for this game.

I'm not going to hammer out a lot of mailing comments this ish at least. However there are a few fanzines that simply must be given recognition for their outstanding typography, literary standards and high artistic merit. And of all those I consider Ed Meskies' NEIKAS #6 to be the most outstanding in every respect. That brilliant cover would have graced AMALGO itself. The typography and duplication were as near perfect as any fanzine in fandom that I have read at least. And the literary quality could serve as model for all N'APA if not all Apa fandom. And to think I recruited Ed Meskies through the fanzine Clearing House.

GEMZINE #4:37 and BAITBOX would be second in my egoboo poll. Mainly for the constructive criticism of TIGHTBEAM policies and suggestions for improvements. Certainly it would be darn good thing if TIGHTBEAM editors could be lined up for year or more in advance.

In regards to this though I just wonder if my proposed zine LET-TERHACK couldn't be run in conjunction or even as part of TIGHTBEAM. With the letterhack paying the cost of his own pages this could mean a much larger and more interesting TIGHTBEAM. And at no extra expense to N3F treasury either.

ALMAZ E ALITER had most excellent cover and fine typography. Not a bad idea at all to get people started writing for N'APA zines as Gem Carr suggests.

MURITANNA was interesting for its contents if not its other assets. Just wish he would have described these war games in more detail though so we could picture just about what is happening.

SPARKLE DAILY ISSUE OF DRAGON had most humorous cover of the mailing. I can't see his idea of the OE deciding on what is to be included in the mailing however. Seems to me inclusion in the mailing is a privilege even the crudest faned pays for in joining N'APA. However I see no reason why credits shouldn't be denied a person sending a fan-



unfit to read. And even this denying of credits should be voted on by the membership. Not that there is anything to fear while Patton is at the helm, but there may be other Mailing Editors in the future who in some instances could use this power to satisfy personal grudges and to censor any fanzine whose contents he didn't agree with.

And if you'll consider that both Lichtman and Patton were first elected merely because no one else felt like running against them you should realize its only too easy for some stinker to somehow become a ME of N'APA. And such a stinker could well break up N'APA altogether just by antagonizing the more enthusiastic members.

After all we are paying our dues and pubbing our N'APazines for mainly one reason. The privilege of speaking our minds without let or hindrance by anyone whatsoever. So I consider that inclusion in the N'APA bundle should be a right rather than a privilege. And if we want to upgrade the quality then it might not be bad idea for one elder pubber to take one neopubber under his or her wing and show him just how to produce a readable, legible and interesting fanzine.

Personally I think just panning by all the members in the mailing comments to be sufficient punishment for crudzines and for those fanzines not within the bounds of good taste and fanish fun.

And if somehow some nasty person does get in N'APA and resist all efforts and urgings to improve his standards then it would be far better to simply refuse to renew his membership at end of year and give a waiting lister his chance.

Last but not least. Just where in the constitution or by laws of N'APA are you compelled to read any fanzine you dont care for by reason of its being crudzine or other objectionable things. I personally have gone to considerable pains to read like ible zines, but not unless there was something there I considered well worth the effort of reading.

And just by the way in this mailing there was not one single crudzine insofar as typography and printing was concerned.

And just for kicks I'm sending for ADAMS UNLIMITED catalogue and mentioning that I saw the advertisement in DEADWOOD. So now you better send him copy of DEADWOOD so he'll know who to thank.



Borky Wally Weber was most amusing of the mailing. And that record making set up sounds out of this world. I can just imagine him in that church without even permission from the management.

CANTICLES from LEBWITZ - Darned if that cover girl of yours don't look just like the lovely Judy Septima. And like MIKAS your fanzine looks a lot more like a magazine than a upzine for which my compliments. I think CANTICLES was just about what Lem had in mind when she suggested the N'RA faneds solicit contributions from letter no publiin members.

I don't say I'd be particularly interested in index of past pocketbook publications, but it sure would be a service if someone could publish all titles currently being published.

I especially liked the ending to BOLLING MATCH. Hope you'll have more fan fiction like this in future issues. And just by the way how about running few extra copies next time for the PUBLISHING PRESS. That is just the sort of fanzine that would attract science fiction readers to fandom.

Leah's poem was good although a bit on the morbid side. One thing is for sure though. Most of us will go to bed to die sooner or later.

Leah Lebowitz's story was good too by the way although also on the morbid side. How about publishing an optimistic issue next time with happy endings and beautiful societies and stuff like that there.

And that completes the mailing comments and also the fanatic.

VAUX ANGLE FANATIC is published by Seth A Johnson, 339 Stiles st. Vaux Hall New Jersey for N'RA Amateur Press Association. This issue is being printed by courtesy of Arnold Katz.

October 16, 1963

Stenciled Oct 8, 1968.

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