



number 6, FAPA 186, February 1984: published once in a while by Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association and an additional few. This issue's contents entirely by Patrick; copyright (c) 1984 by P & T Nielsen Hayden. *Customs declaration:* amateur periodical, not for sale, no commercial value. ee#221, rhp#53, 1.15.84. Gary Farber, the Man of Bronze.

FANTASY AMATEUR 185: Both of the proposed amendments are fine with me. ::: The new format for the Secretary-Treasurer's report looks good, but I find no listing of members dropped since the last mailing. Even if none were, a note should be included to that effect, probably between the roster and the waiting list. Additionally, whereas I note Dan McPhail has been retained as a member, I find no mention of his petition -- who signed it, &c. These are small nits, however. ::: This seems as good a place as any to thank Seth Goldberg for invoking the "postal delay" clause of the constitution in order to prevent Teresa and me from being dropped. ZED 5 was intended for the November mailing, and was mailed airmail special delivery a week before the deadline. On impulse I called the collation to confirm Seth had received it; he hadn't, and I'm glad I did. This issue, I'm taking the speed of cross-border mail into account, and putting it together rather further in advance. (Knock wood.)

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE 11 (Graham Stone): Did Harry Warner really assert that "the number of abortions is increasing so rapidly"? I rather doubt that it is; abortion and infanticide are as old as the race. If anything, I suspect the percentage of fetuses which come to term and live past their first month is higher right now in the developed countries than anywhere else at any time in history. Certainly we're presently hyper-aware of abortion as a political issue, but in fact it's been happening on a staggering scale (usually covered up, hidden, recorded as "miscarriage" -- to say nothing of overlaying and "crib death") for millenia, in response to the hard fact that humans generally conceive fetuses faster than they can feed them.

DISINFORMATION 16 (Arthur Hlavaty): ct Tackett -- "Nowhere near all the people who presented papers, at the Conference on the Fantastic were 'dreadfully serious'. Scholarly study can be a form of play." I'm glad you made that point. I might even go a step further and object to the automatic coupling, by most fans, of the adjective "serious" with modifiers such as "dreadfully". "Serious" is a good word which

shouldn't be made into the antonym of "funny", "entertaining", or "playful". What's wrong with "boring", if that's what one means? ::: For that matter, "dreadfully serious" can often be taken to mean "a form of play I don't get". ::: "All fandom is the Irish of fandom." Good line.

**HAWAII 7.2 (Seth Goldberg)**: I see you put the term "shutdowns", used as a verb, in quotes. Thank you. Let's leave that one there. ::: I agree with you that "the only thing worse than feuds is the way most people write such incomplete and biased reports on them", but on what basis do you deduce that Brian Earl Brown's accounts of the recent Michigan infighting are otherwise? Please understand that I have no reason to believe Brian's reportage is inaccurate; I simply don't know and neither, I suspect, do you. My experience of trying to make sense of fan feuds tells me it's a mistake to give too much credit to any one view simply because it's been written down in detail. ::: I'm obscurely comforted that with even the finest word processing traditional fannish misspellings such as "fued" can still occur. Some things should remain eternal.

**BOSH 4 (Roger Sjolander)**: I think you misunderstand Bruce Arthurs's policy regarding DNQs. Using the "Magic Words", as you say, may be a way of putting trust in someone, but it takes two to ratify a contract and what Bruce's colophon clearly states is that he does not wish to make any such agreements. Obligations must be freely undertaken; no one may impose an obligation to keep secrecy simply by mailing a letter marked "DNQ". I agree that the DNQ is a useful fannish custom, but let's remember it's a custom and not a law. In stating clearly on his colophon that "letters marked DNQ are not wanted", Bruce is not only within his rights but being courteously reasonable.

**MUTTERINGS FROM THE TEAPOT 5 (Marc Ortlieb)**: Your support of constitutional monarchy is quite agreeable to me; I've felt more than once, in fact, that the US might well profit by making Ronald Reagan King. He'd certainly do better at it than he does at being President; his skills are perfectly suited to the job and besides Americans are used to thinking of movie stars as royalty. With Ronnie left to the ribbon-cutting duties of a modern constitutional monarch, why, we might even be able to have chief executives again who read books, follow complicated arguments, and work at their jobs without being the focus of endless irrelevant media coverage of their methods of toasting English muffins. (Not that Commonwealth prime ministers work completely outside the public eye, of course -- as an Australian you doubtless often think your PMs are excessively lionized -- but it's worth pointing out that even a premier as mediagenic as Pierre Trudeau can get away with all sorts of substantial public debate, speculation, and otherwise human behavior of a sort impossible for a modern President.) ::: ct Hlavaty -- "Sorry, I have to disagree with you about food being a boring topic for conversation. If discussed properly, food takes in sex, politics, religion and drugs!" That trenchant observation in mind, how about letting us know what this "pie with sauce" you mention is? Is that anything like the "pea floater" you described to us in Seattle? I don't think I'll forget hearing about that for some time: an abomination beyond even Arkham's fevered dreams.

**FAPAMENTARY 7 (Brian Earl Brown)**: I understand that your experiment didn't work out quite as planned, but I suspect the type in this fanzine would have been more legible in any case. If you compare the type in IZZARDS 5 and 6 (the two offset issues) you'll find that both squeeze 16 characters to the inch, but that issue 5 accomplishes it by shooting pica type down a great deal whereas issue 6 does so by shooting elite type down somewhat less. The result is that issue 6 is more legible due to greater vertical space between the lines of type themselves, which allows the eye to track more accurately from the end of one line to the beginning of the next. ::: Re STICKY QUARTERS 7, as I've sent you a long letter of comment you know my views on Taral's review of PONG. Since I don't know whether that letter will appear in a fanzine sent through FAPA, however, I'll repeat the single point most important to me. The crucial evidence Taral holds up to prove that Ted White has a Bad Attitude towards other fanzines in general is a conversation overheard by Taral at Disclave in which Ted is

alleged to have complained that IZZARD was "not PONGish enough". Ignorant of the context of Ted's remarks, Taral calls this "the deciding factor: Ted White saying some of the very things critics thought he said." Unfortunately for Taral's argument, there's more going on here than he thinks. IZZARD was originally expressly conceived as a successor to PONG; as such, we solicited a great deal of advice from Ted. That much of it amounted to "be like PONG" neither surprised nor offended us; we took the advice we wanted to take, and did our own thing with it. That Ted should have criticisms and voice them in casual conversation with other fanzine fans seems perfectly legitimate to us; we asked him to think about IZZARD. Thus, to regard him as arrogant and dictatorial for these remarks is an error. Remember that Ted wasn't discussing DNG, wasn't discussing STICKY QUARTERS, wasn't discussing INTERGALACTIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY; had he been, Taral might have had a case. He was discussing IZZARD, with our express permission to do so. I hope I may be excused for being irritated at this example of "let's you and him fight". If we aren't offended, Taral certainly shouldn't be. :: Just for the record, at 30-40 pages per issue IZZARD is certainly no longer intended as any sort of PONGish fanzine. Part of the reason for this change is that we agree with Ted: snappy focal points have certain requirements for success, requirements we don't particularly feel like fulfilling at this time. We may yet turn our hands to the form again; when and if we do, we'll again ask Ted for advice, as we frequently ask several experienced faneds whose opinions we respect. Advice is advice: always useful, never compulsory. We think we can sort it out on its own merits without unsolicited "defenses" of our delicate feelings.

**SHARDS (John Bangsund):** Between your spiders and Marc Ortlieb's this certainly appears to be the antipodean arachnid mailing of FAPA, and that's not even counting ex-ANZAPAN Redd Boggs's ant in the sugar caster. I should thank you for braving your garage despite them, as the set of your publications Jerry Kaufman brought back for us was much appreciated and enjoyed. ::: I don't know what it is about your writing which so often strikes me as just right, but it's present even here in this collection of rough drafts: "The Nureyev Hope" and the back page both do it to me. You're one of the few fanwriters I know who can do something like applying that chunk of Eliot to their own fanzine work without inducing immediate cognitive dissonance. I certainly hope you go on trying.

SPIROCHETE 26 and THE WORD MACHINE (Redd Boggs): Redd Boggs without justified margins? I can't see it, try as I might. Please don't stop. If nothing else, you distribute the blank spaces within the lines according to the natural rhythms of the prose involved, a good trick I've seen elsewhere only from Bill Bowers. :: What means "sp-2445572"? :: I keep wanting a stanza-break before the last two lines of "Japanese Cup". Somewhere around "calligraphic flourish" the strong beat of the poem fuzzes out slightly and it seems that as a result some of the impact of those two final lines is muted. :: As you may have gathered, I like your poetry and am glad you keep running it through FAPA despite the complete non-response it seems to engender. As much in fandom as elsewhere, most amateur poetry is embarrassing to anyone who reads poetry seriously. -- isn't.

STAGGERWING 6 (Bruce D. Arthurs): Very sensible comments to Greg Hills. "Nevertheless, I've never, with rare exceptions, felt I 'lost' any of those disagreements, because I went into them feeling my views and opinions were right, and came out of them still feeling in the right, even if nothing had gone the way I'd like to have seen it. When you speak about 'losing' a feud, I get the impression of one's being corflued and feathered and ridden out of fandom on an impression roller." I do wonder, when people talk about "losing" feuds, whether what they're really referring to is the sensation of being less sure than they originally were of their rightness. ::: Billy the Mountain was Seth McEvoy; I even recall Seth's giving Gary Farber his Midamericon membership card in that name, long after the '76 worldcon ("Another display for the Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Fanhistory Museum," said Gary as he pocketed the card). Still don't know about "Stanley from Beneath the Earth."

VHOS 26 (Art Widner): I wish some American convention programmers would try formal debates; anything to get away from the word-wooze served up by those endless panels. I recall reading a debate transcribed from a British convention in Dave Langford and Kevin Smith's DRILKJIS two or three years ago, and the quality of discourse was like to make you weep. Good debate (timed, with judges) requires articulacy, a quick wit, and mental organization: in short, exactly the qualities least emphasized in American education. Nonetheless, with good team selection, I think it'd be great fun.

FANTASY COMMENTATOR 34 (Searles via Moskowitz): I can't detect any major errors vis-a-vis the Golden Dawn in Mike Ashley's essay about Algernon Blackwood's involvement with them. The closest I'd come to a criticism is where he asserts that "Waite, however, had always had...a greater leaning toward the more mystical rather than the occult studies of the order." Keeping in mind that both terms are relative, I'd be hesitant to go that far (or, for that matter, to draw a firm line between "mystical" and "occult" pursuits). What can be stated with relative certainty is that Waite was at heart a very straight-laced Christian simultaneously obsessed with occultism and compelled to warn others away from it, who frequently sidestepped accusations of "black magic" by protesting that he was only in it for the mysticism. Personally, I believe that like I believe people subscribe to PENTHOUSE for the articles. ::: Moskowitz's review of the Pavlat-Evans Fanzine Index contains one persistent error; the Off-Tracks Magazine Publishers' Association was abbreviated OMPA throughout its existence, not "OOMPA" as given here. Also, Frederik Pohl's first name has no "c" in it, but that's nearly as common a slip as "Samuel R. Delaney".

I'M NOT BORING YOU, AM I? 2 (Robert Runte): At Brian Earl Brown -- "I quite agree with your assessment of the fanzine revival of the late '70s and its rather in-groupish attitudes towards what was appropriate fan-writing. THE MONTHLY MONTHLY was never well received by that group either, though it was more the Seattle smofs who had it in for us than Ted White. It seemed to me that what really annoyed them was that we were attempting to do a fannish fanzine outside of the rather narrow traditions of their own subgroup -- i.e., anything vaguely Canadian in origin was considered obviously nonfannish and generally interpreted as hostile. So I pretty much agree with your comments re WARHOON and TELOS etc., only...I always thought you were one of them." ::: All of which strikes me as rather unnecessarily melodramatic. Since, like Brian Earl Brown, you aren't citing anything like sources or evidence to back these impressions of yours up, I have to conclude that they're indeed meant as impressions and nothing else. My impressions are severely at variance with yours. Shall I sling a few of them back? Of course, in an argument which abandons specific names and cited sources, I can say anything I want and call it an "impression"; thus do such arguments all too often descend to a level of pure poison. Despite that, I'll assume you're being honest, and try to be so myself. ::: My impression of Seattle fanzine fandom's reaction to THE MONTHLY MONTHLY is that most of us liked it and thought it was promising. Certainly Gary Farber thought so; he wrote a substantial letter on one of the first issues, full of friendly advice. You guys jumped to the conclusion that Gary was some sort of King Evil BNF calling you on the carpet to lay down the law. A number of us came to the conclusion that you had a chip on your collective shoulder. For the remainder of the fanzine's run, I got the persistent sense you were all dissatisfied with fandom's reaction to it -- not because anyone called it a bad fanzine (for no one did) but because it wasn't immediately hailed as the greatest thing since sliced bread. Does that sound exaggerated? Well, impressions often do. ::: As for your charge that "anything vaguely Canadian in origin was considered obviously nonfannish and generally interpreted as hostile", well, that's ridiculous, that's all. Even within what you call "the rather narrow traditions of our own subgroup, being Canadian is nothing to apologize for. Good Canadian fanzines of all sorts have been around for ages: CANADIAN FANDOM, A BAS, PANIC BUTTON, DESCANT, HUGIN AND MUNIN, ENERGUMEN, ASPIDISTRA, XENIUM, AMOR, DELTA PSI, DNQ. Since your nationalistic sensibilities are obviously wounded by the idea of Canadian residents who lack citizenship papers winning a Canadian sf award, I've deliberately limited the above list to fanzines produced by full-scale citizens,

ignoring Canadian-in-origin work by such immigrant scum as Eli Cohen, Allyn Cadogan, Bill Gibson, or myself. (My parents are landed immigrants in Canada with every intention of staying. I've spent a good deal of my own adult life in and out of the country, though I doubt that impresses a red-blooded superpatriot like yourself.) The point is that I seriously doubt any criticism you've encountered has anything to do with your being Canadian. Don't give yourself airs. ::: As to those "rather narrow traditions", if the "Seattle smofs" are that blinkered I wonder how it is that they manage to enjoy such fanzines as INSCAPE, SCIENCE FICTION COMMENTARY, or THE WRETCH TAKES TO WRITING. Or, for that matter, THE MONTHLY MONTHLY, which (believe it or not) is missed. You say you were trying to do a fannish fanzine outside of these alleged narrow traditions. That was obvious; you all talked about it enough. I remember reading your first couple of issues and being quite intrigued: with the talent you had (particularly Vereschagin) it looked like you might actually succeed, and (again, believe it or not) nothing in fanzines could excite me more. (All the really great fanzines have been trailblazers, subtly -- or not-so-subtly -- redefining our conception of the form.) What was disappointing was that you wimped out, that TMM never really got beyond being a fairly diverting and astonishingly frequent standard genzine. You seemed to be coming closer in your later issues, which is all the more reason for disappointment at the obvious petulance with which you threw in the towel. Should I have written in and said so at the time? And get my head bitten off the way you did to Gary? Forget it. ::: Incidentally, this "Seattle smof" wishes he could write funny anecdotal material as well as you appear to be able to, elsewhere in this issue at hand. Since you seem quite happy doing a lot of other sorts of fanac I certainly won't venture to say "you should do more of that", but I did find it nearly the best thing in this FAPA mailing, and would gladly have run it in IZZARD had it been submitted to us. But then, as people such as yourself and Brian Earl Brown "know" without thinking about it overmuch, fanzines such as ours are a closed shop with no outsiders allowed, so there's no point to even trying to involve yourself -- a self-fulfilling prophecy I've heard time and time again. That the "cliques" we're accused of limiting our interactions to may simply be composed of those who bothered to send material in the first place seems not to occur to you; obviously, the "clique" must predate the fanzine, and not the other way around. You can see I'm a bit touchy on this.

**SHOTGUN 2 (Anders Bellis):** The question of mailing comments was adequately addressed, I think, in the comment of Chauvenet's which you quote here. Your comparison of FAPA's tradition of mailing comments with traditional "unthinking" acceptance of Christian dogma is inapt. Chauvenet wasn't asking you for a metaphysical leap of faith, but rather simply pointing out that the custom under discussion in this small, relatively young (45 years is young compared to Christianity) group must be providing something which members continue to value, since it has indeed survived. You appear to be saying that mailing comments are a tradition, that some traditions are valueless, and that therefore mailing comments are valueless. I think Socrates dealt with that one a while back. (Not that I agree with you that those "dogmas of Christianity" you scorn are valueless; it occurs to me they must have provided something of value to umpteen hundred million people over a period of nearly two thousand years. But then, I see you've read Bertrand Russell and are now smarter any of them. I'm not a Christian, either, and I think Russell was a very great man, but I don't like your tone.) ::: ct Widner -- "And besides, an American who doesn't even bother to put his commas in the right place when writing English is hardly giving FAPA his best." Your English is adequate but hardly good enough to entitle you to make comments like that. As a sometime stylistic pedant with a strong bias against many of Art's unconventional devices ("b4", "tho", etc.), I have to admit that he uses them uncommonly well and is, in fact, currently one of the best writers in FAPA. Not being a mental telepath I can hardly know whether he always gives FAPA his "best", but as audience for both his fanzines and yours I can pretty authoritatively state that even his finger exercises make better reading than what you call your best work.

**HORIZONS 175 (Harry Warner, Jr.):** This is your on-line user report from one of your 65 remotes. ::: I hate to keep arguing historical demographics with you, Harry (cf. my

comment to Graham Stone), particularly considering that I don't have any real figures to back this up with, but I can't help wondering about your attribution of the increase in divorces to the spread of apartment living. Most people in the 19th century US didn't live in the big houses we all see in historical dramas; most of them were poor and lived in tenements, prairie sod houses, and similarly cramped abodes. I really suspect the cause for the increased divorce rate lies elsewhere. ::: There's an observation I've made a number of times about apas, that above a certain level of quality and quantity the feedback one gets ceases to improve and, in fact, often declines ("This is really spiff but I'm so awed by it I can't get it together to comment on it"). Reading this issue of yours (and how many other HORIZONSes have I read? Forty, fifty?), I'm struck by the thought that HORIZONS is possibly the example par excellence of this syndrome. The best most of us can do is stand back in awe at it once in a while. ::: Your article about South Mountain takes a very simple form, one which I've described to others as the Harry Warner technique of setting down "Everything I Know About X". Deceptively simple, so much so that I must confess at times I've leafed through the articles in the back of HORIZONS and neglected to read them all the way through. This is usually a mistake, as I realize periodically when I do get around to reading one of them. Time dilates, I hear your wry and amused voice going on in a leisurely fashion over endless esoterica regarding South Mountain or the oboe, and before I know it I've hit the last page and must immediately dig out those previous HORIZONSes I've put off reading and finish them too. This one was like that. ::: "I don't know of any big city that has ever spread out over mountains", you write. Well: Phoenix, Arizona has completely engulfed one small range (small by Western standards), the North Mountains, though naturally houses aren't built on the peaks themselves but rather around the bases and in the clefts. ::: Unless the passage you quote was lifted in turn by Ed Martin from some other source, I find it hard to credit the content of "The Worst Of Martin" this time. Seems more likely that you copied it all down from some book entitled The History Of The Grange Movement and are in fact enjoying a private joke at our expense. Please advise. (Signed, Committee for Authentic Martin Reprints.)

DETOURS 15 (Russell Chauvenet): I like what you describe of Malachi Martin's comments about Islam; Teresa brought it home to me once when I was reading a lot about Islamic culture by commenting that it's interesting that the Arabian desert should have been the birthplace of a religion positing an absolutely immediate, absolutely powerful One God whose spirit utterly pervades the world and who appears to be located, um, directly overhead. Funny about that. ::: I don't know that "the science fiction fan is looking for new things; the adherent of a particular religious faith is not." How many science fiction fans were, and remain, utterly hostile to the changes which have swept our culture since the mid-1960s, preferring the familiar world of Campbell's Astounding instead? And plenty of people seem to have found new things, some quite unexpected, in traditional religion; that's how many internal mystical traditions get started. I'd be more inclined to say that most people aren't really looking for "new things" but for confirmation of their prejudices, and that includes both religious practitioners and sf fans. There are neophiles out there; certainly fandom (of all places!) has no monopoly on them. ::: I'd be interested to hear how your grandfather William Chauvenet rated having a lunar crater named after him. Nevertheless, I'd hardly say he was the "last of the Chauvenets who ever amounted to much". Craters named after one's self are all very fine but you coined a word -- "fanzine" -- which has since spread far beyond the boundaries of our subculture and begun to appear in newspapers, magazines, and dictionaries both in its later usage as "a magazine for fans" and its original meaning as "a periodical produced by fans". Craters on the moon -- well, not bad. But to create a word which lasts -- now that's Sense of Wonder.

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FAPA is a fanclub dreaming softly in the passage of the years

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