

This has been another one of those more rushed months for me. A big chunk of my time leading up to this deadline has been consumed with scanning a complete run of *Focal Point*, a 1965/66 newszine published by Mike McInerney and the late rich brown. I'd scanned and posted the first five issues last fall when Mike first sent me his file, but then the holiday season and publishing the latest issue of my fanzine *Trap Door* interceded. Now they're done. You can see the result at...

<http://efanzines.com/FocalPoint/index.htm>

To me one of the joys of having old fannish newszines is seeing how events were reported when they happened, not how they're related later through the fog of time and the reinterpretation and downright errors of others. For instance, you can



see reportage of the discussion that roiled through fandom when Don Wollheim, editor of Ace Books, discovered that Tolkien's *Ring* trilogy was not copyrighted in the U.S. and rushed out an unauthorized edition. You can also read rich brown's tongue in cheek report of Steve Stiles being drafted: "There was a crowded party held at Steve's before he left, with pipple from the Fanoclasts and FISTFA and Other Friends of the famous playboy publisher, at which everyone laughed of his plight and told him they would be glad to see him gone. Then we all went home and killed ourselves."

Some of you will already know, but four years later rich and our current OE, that nice Mr. Katz, revived *Focal Point* and published many more issues. Perhaps if you ask nice, those of you who live in Vegas can prevail on Arnie to show them to you at a Vegrants meeting.

But anyway, this is going to be another one of those more minimalist issues of *Vegas By The Bay* (you'd hardly think so by its length, but this was all composed in about four hours in two sessions)—and with that I'm going right to mailing comments.

Charles Fuller: I'd never heard of the term "knapping" to describe the production of arrowheads and other Native American stone items. Thanks for an interesting article, although I'd like to see more in the way of mailing comments from you.

Ross Chamberlain: Advance congratulations of attaining (soon) your seventieth birthday. You're older than me by just over half a decade, but these kinds of numbers are no longer unusual as fandom grays. SNAPS has a lot of younger people in it, but I'm in another small apa where eleven of the eighteen

members are over seventy and half of those are over eighty. That would be SAPS, the good ol' Spectator Amateur Press Society, fandom's second oldest apa, still kicking along after 238 quarterly mailings. Unlike SNAPS, it's devoted to the print medium and puts out mailing averaging around 200 pages. I was a member originally from 1959 to 1965, rejoined in 1983, and have been active there ever since. The only mailing I ever missed was due to the post office not delivering my zine on time, so I don't count it as missed. I've done 95 issues of *Door Knob*, my SAPSzine. Its title inspired Wally Weber, when he rejoined after me, to name his zine *Key Hole*.

It was interesting to read about your siblings and the various ups and downs and adventures in their lives, and I was relieved when I read on-line that your surgery went well. Noting that you dropped about fifteen pounds in the month following the operation, I recall that was about the same amount I lost in the aftermath of my ankle surgery back in 2001. I've got it all back.

Roxanne Mills: Thanks for clarifying what you actually meant when you wrote that your sense of smell was "impaired." You write: "I was torn between 'impaired' and 'diminished' – but the latter seemed far offbase to me as I realized that there were some odors I smelled quite well and thus couldn't say my sense of them was diminished in any way. I thought 'impaired' was safe as it firmly covered those diminished items, even if it ignored the 'super power' senses. I simply couldn't think of any other single word which worked for me in that sentence...and I probably spent more time pondering over that one word than I did over any other aspect of the entire article. So, I'm inviting all readers to find me a better word to describe the sense of smell I *used* to have." How about "selective"? (And I'm still looking forward to when you do get to a used bookstore to see if that particular olfactory experience has changed.)



R-Laurraine Tutihasi: "As you may have heard, we had record low temperatures in the LA area in mid-January. Many farm crops in the Central Valley were ruined. While our nighttime temperatures didn't fall quite that low, I have been noticing damage in my hibiscus and a few other plants." We had an extremely cold January here in the San Francisco Bay Area, too, and had hard evidence of just how cold it was when we got our gas and electricity bill for the month early in February. It was the highest it's ever been, even more than last summer when we suffered an extended heat wave that set records. When I read that food crops had suffered because of the cold snap, I was concerned that prices for fruit and vegetables would shoot sky-high. Happily, that hasn't happened. A few things went up a dime or so a pound for a week or two, but now all have returned to their normal levels for this time of year.

Bryan Follins: Welcome aboard, and thanks for the brief introduction (though I'd like to know more, of course). You also write that "When I was about four, I believed that to be a student of science fiction, one had to overcome a fear factor. How could anybody enjoy science fiction if they were afraid of it?" I guess it says something about our relative ages and changing times that you were even aware of science fiction at the age of four. I was also an early and voracious reader, but took me until I was nearly twice that age to become conscious that there was such a thing—and I'm sure that even so there was much less SF available than there would have been when you were four.

John Purcell: Enjoyed your Corflu Quire mini-report but wondered if getting a copy of *Ah! Sweet Laney!* was not one of the highlights of the weekend. See you next year in Vegas.

You inquired of me: "Was that a slightly derisive laugh I detected in your comment to me? (*)" Try as I might, I couldn't find the footnote implied by your parenthetical asterisk. And looking back at my comments to you in *VBTB* No. 4 I can't find anything even remotely like a "slightly derisive laugh." If you mean the "Ahahahahaha," that was acknowledgment of *your* comment about me looking "quite respectable" in my 1980 photo.

And to Arnie you write: "Which of you is right, Lichtman or Katz, on the pronunciation of *Kteic*? Now I am *very* confused." Both Arnie and I heard it pronounced by Rotsler, but differently. Perhaps this is related in some arcane way to the various pronunciations of "Cthulhu."

Thanks for writing up your visit with Halbert Hall. Sounds like quite a collection he's overseeing there. You include a most tantalizing paragraph in your account:

"That being said, when I asked if he knew anything about the fate of Harry Warner, Jr.'s fanzine collection, Hal sighed and said, that no, TAMU didn't acquire it. However, he does know the person in Texas who *did* buy the collection, telling me that it was bought for research purposes, and that it will be kept together. Hal couldn't remember the name of the buyer offhand, but promised to look it up and let me know. With permission, I may be able to divulge the name of the "mystery buyer from Texas" at some point in the near future. Stay tuned."

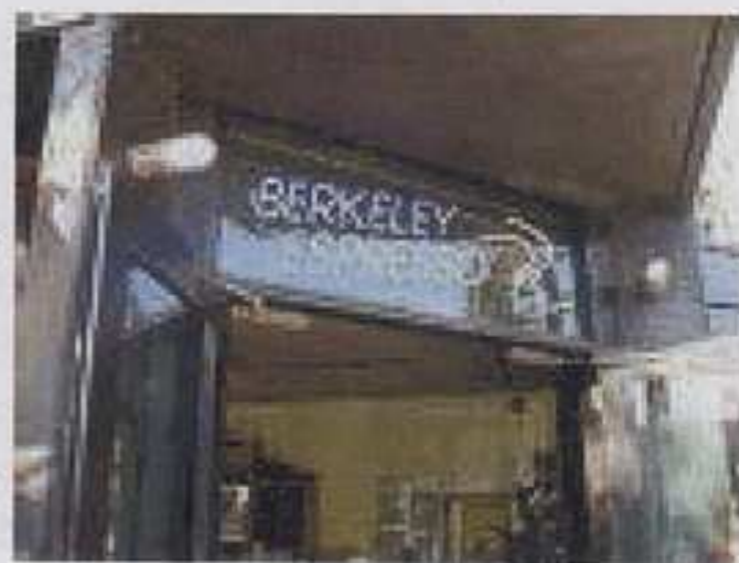
As you know from my editorial in the new *Trap Door*, this is something I'd really like to know. And now I'm also trying to figure out the identity of "another major, long-term fan in Texas" who's going to bequeath his SF and fanzine collection to Texas A&M upon his death. Any clues?



Teresa Cochran: To me you write, "I'm looking forward to meeting you at Corflu Silver." The feeling is mutual.

And you also write: "I'm loyal to Peet's, ever since I lived in the Bay Area for twenty years. Some of

the local coffee roasters here in Vegas are pretty good. I steer clear of Starbuck's though, except for their scrumptious cocoa." Do you have a reason for favoring Peet's in terms of the quality of their coffee, or is your loyalty based on nostalgia for the Bay Area? I don't find them better than Starbuck's, but most of the time I prefer to get my espressos at independent coffee places. For instance, when Carol and I were in Taos, New Mexico in October, my son who lives there told us of World Cup on the edge of the downtown plaza. Their coffee is truly superior. Here in Berkeley I like Espresso Roma (two locations but I favor the one at College & Ashby) and Berkeley Espresso (Shattuck & Hearst).



Thanks for the egoboo about *Ah! Sweet Laney!* I also liked the binding. Is someone reading it to you?

I enjoyed your Corflu report. And I loved your performance that Graham Charnock caught and put on YouTube!

James Taylor: And yours, too. Nice to get a view of the convention from both halves of a couple.

Belle Churchill: Welcome aboard! Great that Arnie got you involved here and hope this is only the first of many appearances in these virtual precincts. I gather from reading between your lines that you are back in Las Vegas after living somewhere else. Since you write, "Winter on the Mainland is not conducive to long skirts and sandals," I'm going to make a Great Leap here and wonder if you were living in Hawaii for a while. In that case, welcome home. I remember you well from my visits to Las Vegas back when you *did*, in Arnie's words, "dress like a hippie."

Joyce Katz: It's a little disappointing to read that your plans for a new genzine may be derailed, even if temporarily, so you can do another round as a SNAFFU official. On the other hand, you know what your needs are and what the club's needs are—and I know you and James will do a good job of keeping it alive (and even reviving it further), so I wish you both well. When the time comes for that genzine to step forward, though, let me know and I'll fix you up with a revival of "Entropy Reprints" (assuming you want to revive a *Smokin' Rockets* feature).



To me you write: "I think the blanket you called 'purchased on eBay' may be the most unusual Native American weave I've ever seen. It certainly is appealing, sort of a cross between Native American, and Primitive American art. Any

chance you could photo a detail, to give me a closer look?" Here's a blow-up of a small portion of the weaving clipped from the larger picture (easier and quicker to do than taking a photo)—hope it's sufficient. These pictorials are fairly common in Navajo weaving, especially these days when there's a ready collectors' market for them. The design most done is the "tree of life," an example of which is to the right. If you go to Google Images and search for "Navajo pictorial," you'll find quite a few of them. Another common design is the Navajo "yei" and/or "yeibichei," depicting costumed figures engaged in ceremonial dancing.



You also write: "I have not yet seen *Trap Door* #24; Arnie received it and Took It Unto Himself. I'll remind him ...but I may be waiting until you post it online. Any chance you'll do that soon?" No, as I wrote in my editorial:

"On the other side of the coin of my decision to keep *Trap Door* on paper, Jim Caughran's letter in this issue takes me to task for *not* posting my fanzine at Bill Burns's eFanzines Web site. He points out the possibility that 'by denying this readership that costs you nothing, you will have cost fandom the next Willis.' I briefly considered changing my mind back again, but realized that I have two recent issues posted there and not a soul has come through with a surprise letter of comment (or five bucks for a paper copy for posterity). There's always a chance, though, and meeting Jim's concerns halfway I've decided that in the future I'll be posting the *previous* issue there for a future Willis to stumble across."



Cover of *The Caravan*

"The dawa reminds me very much of mandalas that were popular in the early 1970." The one I remember best from that period was the Monday Night Class mandala (to the left) created by Michael Kelly, who was the other "husband" in Stephen Gaskin's "four-marriage." It was on the cover of the book, *Monday Night Class*, and also on *The Caravan*, the book after *MNC* that covered the speaking tour Stephen underwent in 1970/71 (in a converted school bus accompanied by 50-60 other buses and other vehicles) that ultimately led to the founding of The Farm, the commune where I lived from 1971 through mid-1980. A large poster was made back then, and copies of the mandala itself adorned the back of all the vehicles on the Caravan.

Arnie Katz: This is a nice bumper issue, but having already seen and commented on most of your issue in its transmogrified form in *Vegas Fandom Weekly* I'm jumping immediately to your most welcome mailing comments.

"I've heard a few of our members apologize for doing 'only mailing comments'

and 'just mailing comments.' While original content—essays, fiction, and the like—is highly desirable in an APA, mailing comments are the lifeblood. If you don't believe me, ask Mr. Lichtman. He wrote the book on APA. Literally. It was an N3F Fandbook and I was an eager young neofan. Now look at me?" You'll never hear me apologizing for not writing more (or much more) than mailing comments in *any* of my four apas. Based on my own desire for feedback, I know that's what my fellow members want and that's what I give. And if you don't believe me, read the book, ahahahahaha.

I love old pulp magazine covers like the ones Robert and Joyce often present in their SNAPSzines. I've worked a few into *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, too. The sheer garishness, the luridness of the colors and themes is a media smash in the mouth." Well, then, just for you I'm winding up this issue with a couple from Don Wollheim's first professional editorial job.

To Joyce you write, "As usual, your reportage is somewhat spotty. I entreated you to give your SNAPSzine a name other than *Placeholder*. I believe that name should be reserved for those who don't do a proper contribution, but stick some hasty page into the eMlg. Instead, I like to think of *Placeholder* and other, similar names as the fannish equivalent of the Scarlet Letter. When your fanzine says **12 Placeholder** at the top of the first page, it is one step away from just putting on the dunce cap and retiring to the punishment corner." We'll have to agree to disagree here, Arnie, because I thought using that title over and over again established its bonafides as a *real* title.

