

Since none of my mailing comments this time lent themselves to specific visuals, I'm instead peppering these pages with cover scans of vintage fanzines, sort of in homage to Arnie's starting up the Faan Store. And without further ado...



Charles Fuller: Since I don't share your fascination with guns and the things they can do, and there was nothing in your mailing comments that lent itself to a virtual checkmark, my words to you this time around are few. I *do* wonder why you double-space everything. Writing for SNAPS is not the same as doing a typed manuscript for publication where this would be necessary. Even though these are only electronic pages unless someone prints them out and so no paper is wasted, it still seems eccentric.

R-Laurraine Tutihasi: You wrote: "Mike's trip to Oracle last month was semi-successful. He had planned to stay two nights but only stayed one due to clouds. One neat thing that happened is that he was able to take some excellent photos of the bobcat that hunts on our land." If that photo accompanying your text is one of those photos, I'm impressed both at the photography and at the size and apparent good health of the cat.

To me you wrote: "Saddle sores never discouraged me from getting back in the saddle again. Vaseline works really well on saddle sores." Thanks for the tip, but the bottom line is that I'm really not interested in riding horses. I satisfied my curiosity about them during that solitary ride decades ago.

"Cigar smoke puts me off." Depending on what it is I don't mind the smell itself but I don't like being around the second-hand smoke, so I avoid it wherever possible.

"I tried going to Africam, but nothing showed up. I tried both Safari and Firefox. Some sites don't work in Safari. Maybe it was the wrong time of day." It worked for me in Firefox, but there wasn't much going on and it was getting dark. Perhaps, as you surmise, you checked in when it was the middle of the night there.

"My zine fits fine on my computer screen. I can see the whole page at one time, and the type size is large enough to be read without magnification. I have my Acrobat reader set to display each page fully... With the other SNAPSzines, I frequently have to enlarge the page to be able to read the tiny print. On my computer my whole page displays at 115%." I have a 17-inch monitor





and a full version of Acrobat (7.0 Professional). Your pages display completely at around 80% on my screen. This would probably be small type for you, but I find it totally readable.

John Purcell: For some reason it hadn't dawned on me until I read your account of the CCTE conference that you're a college English teacher by trade. This was going to be my career path, too, back in the '60s. I got a bachelor's degree in English literature from UCLA and moved to the Bay Area, where I took on full-time employment and began attending evening graduate classes at San Francisco State. Then Ronald Reagan became governor of California and began squeezing the universities for funding and college teaching positions began to dry up. At the same time I was finding the emphasis on form rather than content for grad work unsatisfying and "the sixties" began happening right in my own back yard. So I dropped out and never looked back.

To me you wrote: "Well, I hate to say this, but I'm beginning to think seriously about *maybe* joining FAPA. There are some fan articles and such I'd like to write, and maybe doing a little quarterly will fit into my schedule this summer.

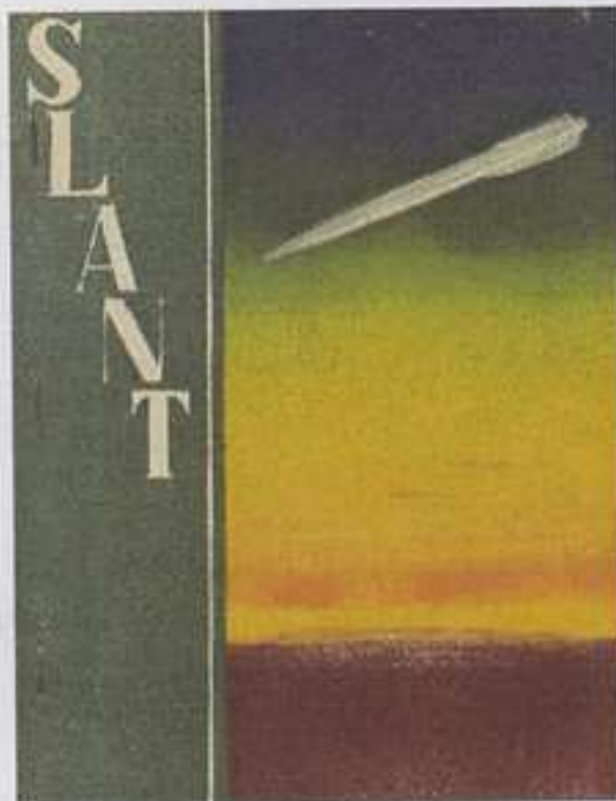


We shall have to see what happens." Would this be in addition to your new fanzine, *Askance*, the first issue of which I'm at present looking forward to reading. If you wanted to use that as your FAPAzine, you could add a section of mailing comments at the rear. In doing so you would be reviving (or perhaps just continuing) an ancient tradition by such worthies as Redd Boggs (*Skyhook*) and Richard Bergeron (*Warhoon*). I even did that myself briefly in the early '60s when I first joined FAPA. I revived my genzine of the time, *Psi-Phi*, and ran mailing comments along with the articles.

Chris Garcia: "This is another of those issues where time is almost as precious as Middle East oil and far more scarce. It's Cinequest time again and I'm tired, tired, tired." Coupled with a twenty-day interval between the two most recent (as of this writing) issues of *The Drink Tank*, I'm beginning to worry about you, Meyer. Don't go doing a Nydahl on us, y'hear!

Teresa Cochran: "My first encounter with flying machines that I can remember was when I was about nine or so." That's much younger than my own experience, which was that I didn't fly at all until I was in my late teens or early twenties. Back then there was an airline called PSA that ran hourly flights every day from L.A. to the Bay Area for something like \$19, and I took one to go up to some Bay Area fan gathering. At least that's my memory of first





flying, and it could be wrong in the particulars but not the approximate age. I've never been a huge fan of flying, though, and over the years the disincentives for doing so have increased—especially now that one can't even get on the plane without having to run through a Homeland Security gauntlet. I'll drive and keep my shoes on, thank you.

James Taylor: About your jury summons you wrote, "I wasn't thrilled when I got my summons, but like death and taxes it comes into our lives sooner or later." It hasn't happened to me that often, but I don't take such a benign view of it. The first time was back in the late '80s or early '90s, and I got as far as being considered for the trial of a guy who'd robbed a pizza parlor in Petaluma of not very much money and maybe a pizza or two. Small potatoes on that level, *however*, he had shown a gun but not used it during the heist. This meant an "enhancement" of his potential sentence if found guilty. Back then the way some of the savings and loan thieves had gotten off with hand-

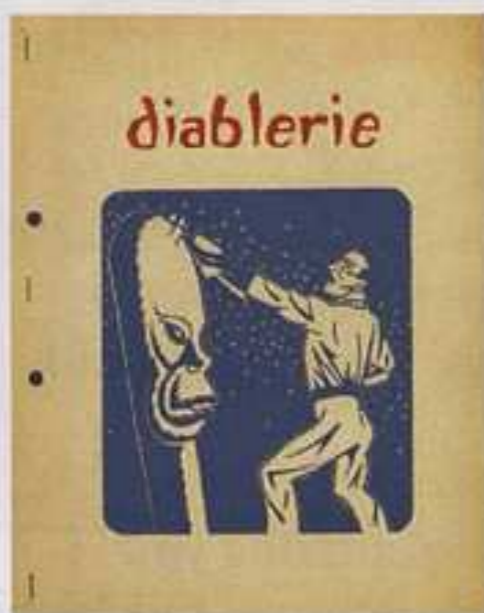


slaps, a fine and often only probation rankled at me. In particular one Charles Keating's trial was fresh in my mind. So when it came time for me to be grilled by the defense attorney, I asked what sort of time the defendant was facing. Eight to ten years was the reply. Why, I exclaimed, that's more than Charles Keating got for stealing millions! And I was outta there.

The next time I got a jury summons was in a huge pile of mail that had accumulated while I was in hospital for a couple weeks following an auto accident in the summer of 1999. My car had been totaled, I was on crutches, and there was no way I was going to be able to appear. I sent back the acknowledgment card with that information, suggesting they call me again in six months. A mere month later another card arrived. I was still carless and convalescing. I sent the card back again with the name and phone number of my doctor so they could confirm my story.

And I've never had another jury summons since. Although in theory I like it that way, I guess I'd be willing to serve if necessary, especially now that I'm retired. But they don't make it convenient or attractive. In this county you only get five bucks a day for serving, and all that does is pay for your parking in the nearby garage *if* there's a space there. Otherwise one has to





deal with public transportation (not a very feasible thing from where I live) or paying at more expensive garages.

Joyce Katz: It was interesting to read about the Corflu hotel search. "Turns out April is a busy month, with several city-wide events already scheduled for 2008." Perhaps late March will have to be reconsidered if the rates you've quoted so far are the best you can do. Although a few people have complained about having Corflu at the Plaza Hotel downtown again, I think it's a fine venue myself. Its Website doesn't allow one to look ahead into 2008, but if Corflu was the last weekend in April of this year there are "standard" rooms available for \$69.99 a night.

Thanks for a very interesting account of the life and times of Mickey Rhodes. I have that issue of *Odd* with his wonderful cover, and I see you used him fairly extensively in the issues after that (although not, as you write, "hundreds of illustrations"). "Perhaps I should write a bio for him for Wikipedia." I think you just did.

To Ross you write, "Contrary to what you say, I wouldn't rate reading fanzines or producing them higher than in-person fanac. Not even writing beats out face-to-face conversation. But, ahhh, having writ — that's the top fan pleasure for me, once the work is over but before the criticisms (including my own) arrive. The



short time basking in my own opinion of my worth is very pleasurable, albeit brief." That is a definite pleasure. I'm always both pleased and relieved when I finish up one of my many apazines, although occasionally disappointed and/or surprised at just what in them draws comment (or not). Doing *Trap Door* is a higher level of the same sensations. Once I've stapled together that first copy, hold it in my hands, and slowly turn the pages (and before I start finding the typos I missed that are now in over two hundred copies), I could stop there. I don't of course, and the next wave of pleasure is when the letters of comment begin

arriving. I like in-person fanac also, but in some ways it's a draw. I prefer the more one-on-one (or at least one-on-few) variety rather than large parties.

"Larsen's, the used bookstore in Hollywood, you mentioned — do you remember its location? The name sounds familiar to me. I never cease to wonder that in 1961-2 I frequented so many book stores in Hollywood which fans evidently regularly visited. And yet I never met a one." Larsen's was on Hollywood Blvd. just west of





Western Avenue on the south side of the street. I think I was done going there by 1961, at least on a regular basis.

Arnie Katz: "Compared to FAPA, which just marked off 60 years of operation, SNAPS is a toddler." It's SAPS that's celebrating its 60th year in 2007. FAPA is turning 70!

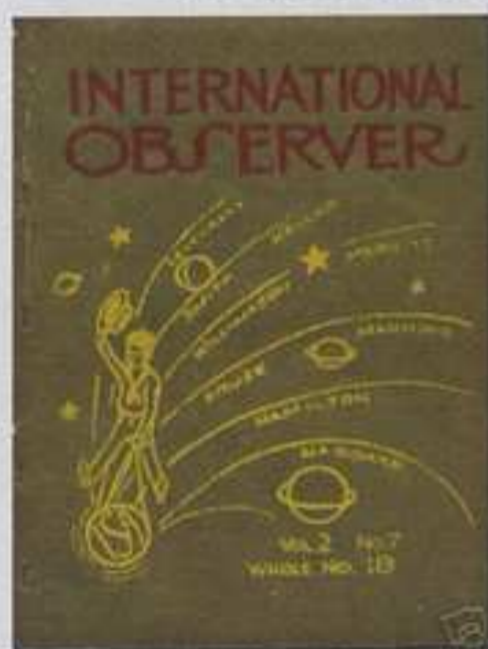
You have my blessing for a second year as SNAPS OE. Of your goals for the immediate future, I'm lukewarm on the establishment of an egoboo poll. In my view we're too small to bother. SAPS gave up its egoboo poll years ago and doesn't seem to have been affected.

As you probably know from our past private discussions, I was a huge fan of *The Great Gildersleeve* when I was growing up. That's how I know you're wrong where you write that his name was "Throckmorton O. Gildersleeve," when in fact his middle initial was P. I only vaguely remember the half-hour shows and am not sure just when I began listening to them, but I clearly remember the shift from those half-hour shows to the 15-minute ones sometime in the early '50s.

All that aside, I can't help but smile at the notion of Joyce switching to Parkay because of the advertising on a defunct radio show. I believe my mother might have bought Parkay back in the day, but am not sure—and for the most part my parents favored butter. (However, I *do* remember squeezing pouch margarine when I was five to distribute the little button of yellow food coloring through the white margarine.) I don't use butter myself and avoid margarines with any trace of dairy—a legacy from going vegetarian in the late '60s and buying Willow Run margarine from health food stores. In more recent times I found Canoleo soft margarine at Trader Joe's some years ago. It's made in Canada and has a taste I like. I don't get it at TJ's any more, though, because I found a version of it with no hydrogenated oils and no transfats at the Rainbow natural foods store in San Francisco. They seem to be the only place that carries it, so when I shop there I stock up.

I'm with you, Arnie, in disdaining the 2008 Westercon. Even if I was in favor of staying at an expensive hotel and mingling with a bunch of people, most of whom I won't know because of fandom's "big tent," I wouldn't come to Vegas in the heat of the summer *and* just a couple months after Corflu Silver.

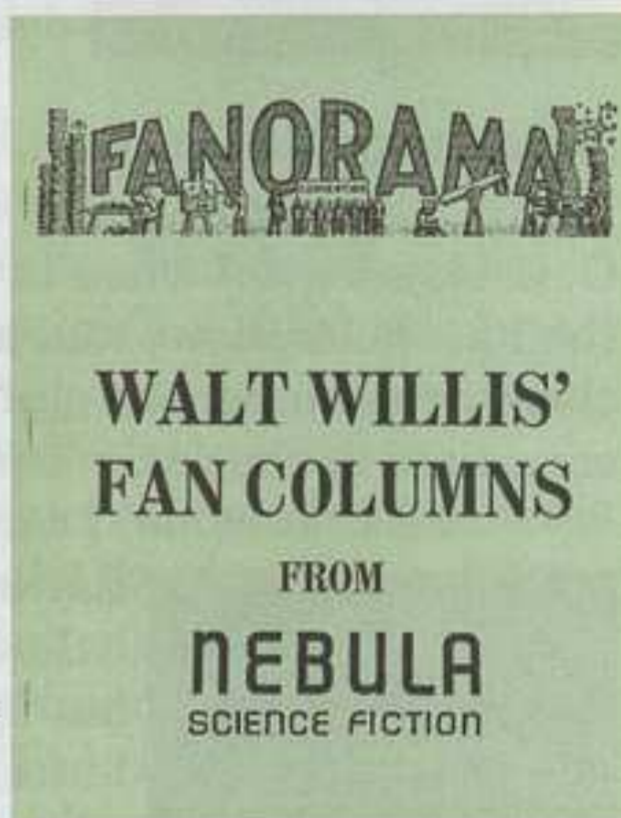
I checked out your provisional Website for the Faan Store, and was impressed with the overall look and feel of it. I wish you luck pulling off this project because of your good intentions, but I wonder if you'll attract the sort of work from people that will be needed to furnish the store





with suitable inventory. You write, "The producers of some landmark fan publications like Robert Lichtman's Willis collection...need to get at least expenses back in order to make the projects feasible." As a matter of fact, *Fanorama* made back its expenses years ago, and I have only a small handful of hard copies left. (They're 100 pages for \$12 postpaid.) It would be a good item to sell via the Faan Store, even though it's available as text files on Bill Burns's site. Bill did the work on that himself, scanning and OCRing from a hard copy of the book. In order to create a PDF edition that could be downloaded or sold on a CD, I (or someone) would have to

scan most of the book. This is because it was created by pasting up enlarged photocopies of the original columns (with the exception of the last ten pages or so, which are "posthumous" "Fanorama" columns in my *Psi-Phi* and Peter Weston's *Zenith* that I typed up). I wouldn't want to do that work, but I would give my blessing to anyone who did (so long as I got to see the finished product before it hit the racks). However, it should be noted that the bulk of the copies sold prior to publication—I offered a pre-publication special price to get enough money on hand to pay the cost of producing the 150-copy edition—and in this millenium only three copies have sold, the most recent in May 2005. So demand might not be there.



"It's nice that UC Riverside and one or two other universities have fanzine collections; I'm skeptical about how many fans will go to those schools to read fanzines — and about what kind of reception they'll get if they do." The Eaton SF collection at UC Riverside and also the University of Iowa (which has the Mike



Horvat collection) both offer to sell photocopies of any fanzine they've catalogued (and the Eaton also offers scans but they are more expensive). I've ordered photocopies from both and have been treated in a friendly, helpful manner and found the quality of the copies to be perfectly adequate. (In one case I was able to get the first issue of a zine I did for the Carboniferous Reproduced Amateur Press that existed in only five copies!) According to the Eaton's Website there are nearly 42,000 fanzines thus available.

All the above said, I wish you the best of luck with this project.