



Once again I'm decorating the issue with fanzine cover scans, and am somewhat pressed for time so without further ado here are my comments on the previous mailing...

John Purcell: In your now superceded musings about what Texan might have bought the Harry Warner Jr. fanzine collection you write, "As for that other 'major, long-term fan in Texas,' I really have no clue who Hal was referring to. The name of Richard Brandt leaps to mind, but I doubt it." So do I. At the last Las Vegas Corflu, Richard set up shop one day with a huge number of boxes of fanzines all neatly alphabetically arranged, representing extensive weeding of his collection. He was of course immediately besieged by ardent collectors, including myself, and before long the contents of those boxes was much reduced.

As for who bought Harry's fanzines, you've now written of him in *VFW*—and I refer you to my LoC in the following issue for my response and comments.

"I completely agree that mailing comments are the lifeblood of an APA, but it is still fun to read articles and con/trip reports in an APA. This is why I will always try to do both in my apa contributions. It is all about communication, dontcha know." Well, certainly, but when push comes to shove I'll go for cranking out a set of comments on the previous mailing instead of trying to write an article.

Chris Garcia: Nice memorial piece on Kurt Vonnegut, but in general don't you think you might be a little over-extended?

Ross Chamberlain: It was very interesting reading about your efforts to maintain a healthy weight through exercise and diet modification. As I've written here before, I take a near-daily turn on my elliptical trainer and it's done marvels in building up my stamina (in addition to climbing the stairs from my basement office to the main floor of the house many times a day—bathroom breaks, food breaks, mail break, and more). I've had it not quite a year and have gradually cranked up the amount of time I spend on it and the length of my "journey." My weight wavers in the 185 range, give or take a few, all the time.

I particularly liked this: "I even found a pair of slacks the other day that have an unmistakable (though mild) flare at the bottom—and they fit me again, now! Nah, I'll save these for casual at-home wear, or special



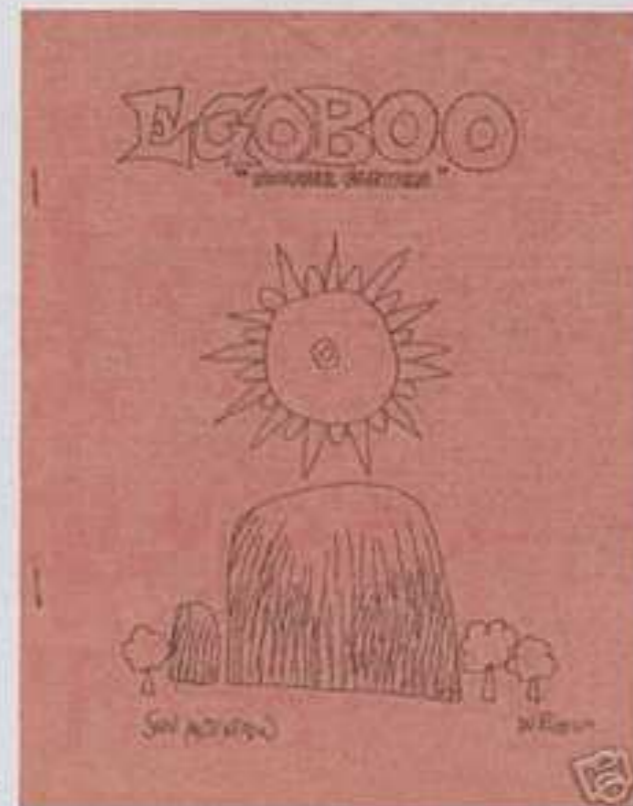
occasions when a kinda costume approach is needed—I'm not *totally* lacking in fashion sense!" It reminded me that I still have a pair of wide bell-bottom jeans bought in the very early '80s, not long after I left The Farm, that are in perfect condition *and* still fit me perfectly. Like you, I reserve them for special occasions—the last time I wore them was maybe 6-7 years ago when I paired them with one of the bright tie-dyed teeshirts I still have for Halloween dress-up at work. But I've tried them on more recently than that, which is how I know I can still shimmy into them.

Your new cellphone sounds downright space-age compared to the one it's replaced. Ours is more like your older one—a Nokia, non-flip, no bells and whistles whatsoever. We use T-Mobile's prepaid plan, and when we got the phone early last year we sprung for \$100 worth of minutes because that gave you instant bonus minutes and all were good for a full year. I marked my calendar for two days before the year was up and went to one of the local T-Mobile stores, where I was pleased to learn that I didn't need to spend another \$100 to get another year's worth of minutes. They'd liberalized their plan so that *any* amount I added would extend out another year. Since we'd used up less than half the minutes we'd initially bought, I spent a whopping ten bucks and was out of there.

Of your history with firearms you write, "I had toy guns, of course, but had access to only two that could really shoot—BB guns." I never went that far myself. I always lived in cities, had no one in my family interested in hunting or any other aspects of guns, and as far as I got was owning a couple of cap guns.

To me you note, "For some reason I've had it in the back of my head for some time that I was a member of SAPS at one time, but in thinking about it after your mention here I suspect I was remembering TAPS instead.... Well, if I had been a member of SAPS, there would have been no overlap with you, since it would have been in the time between 1965 and somewhere in the early '70s, while you were away. Arnie will probably know, since I think I was only in the same apas as he around that period." Since I have all the *Spectators* from that period, it was but the work of a moment to determine that not only were you *not* a member of SAPS back then, you were never on the waiting list, either.

You ask Arnie, "Are you going to be adding VFWs from before #69 to that site?" You refer to his Faan Store site, but there are no VFWs there, but upstream at the Las Vegrants site there are the issues starting with No. 69. If you want to see the earlier ones, go to Bill Burns's efanzines.com and you'll find them *all* there right back to the beginning.





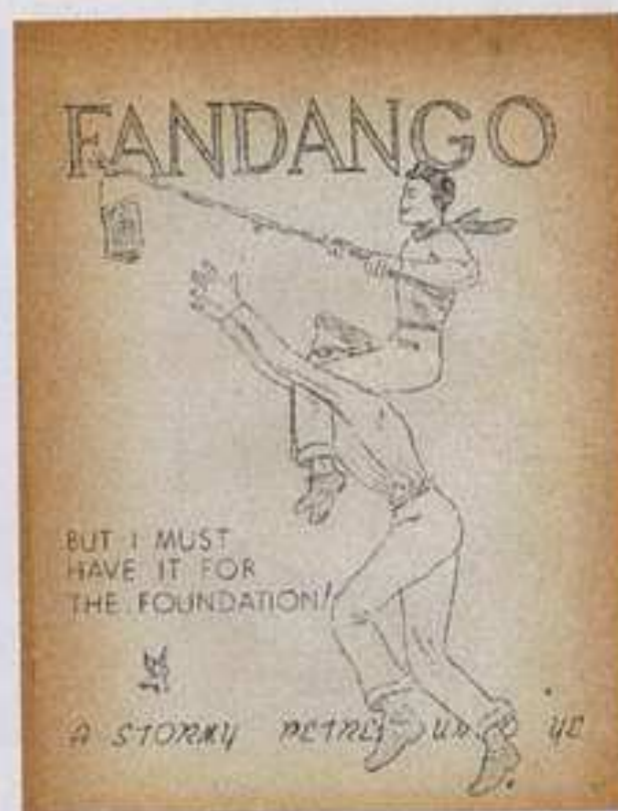
Belle Augusta: Good to see you making a return visit. To me you write, "Hope to see you in the flesh again someday." Next year at Corflu for sure...as you write: "I love playing in the Corflu Hospitality Suite. I hope to see everyone there."

R-Laurraine Tutihasi: "It might have been in another APA that someone cited a web site that claims to predict when you'll die. I think it's just all in fun. The site asks you how old your grandparents were when they died, whether you smoke, drink, and other similar questions. I was satisfied with the answer I got on my limited input." My best guess is that was probably <http://www.deathclock.com/>. It shows that I'm slated to gafiate on my birthday in 2029. Since I'll be 87 at that point, I wouldn't be dissatisfied; but when I look at fans like Art Widner (turning 90 this year), Bill Danner (lived to 94) and G.M. Carr (lived to 97), I'd like to do better.

"The N3F can also be very useful to fans living far from other fans." That might have been true in the early days of fandom (if then), but with the advent of the internet an organization like the N3F is less relevant because networking can be easily accomplished on-line.

Linda Bushyager: In your musings about what might have happened in your and others's lives if you hadn't become a fan, you write, "My love of SF would have pushed me into an interest in astronomy." In my own case, that happened when my age was still in single digits. I'd already been a faithful listener to the "Space Patrol" radio show. When our family moved from Cleveland to Los Angeles at the end of 1950 and we took up temporary residence in an apartment while my parents' "dream house" was under construction, a visit to the Griffith Park Observatory (the same one that played a major role in *Rebel Without A Cause*) got me interested in astronomy. This led to my using a toy printing press with rubber type to put out a couple issues of an "astronomy newsletter" which I distributed to several of my friends. I guess those were my first fanzines, but I haven't had copies for decades and no longer remember what was in them.

Arnie Katz: I read with interest your report on changes in the FAAn awards poll for next year. I'm not sure I agree with the idea of creating a category for "Number One Fan Face," and think I prefer the past system in which "several vote tellers have added up all the points received in each of the categories and presented those totals as 'Number One Fan Face'."



You further write on the subject: "A separate category for 'Fan Face' will give fans a chance to honor the all-around great fan whose achievements may slip through the cracks of the existing category structure. I wouldn't be at all surprised if one of SNAPS' Own, Robert Lichtman, won top honors and several others—Chris Garcia, Joyce Katz—placed high in the rankings."

Speaking strictly for myself, I feel that given the likelihood of my receiving votes in two of the five categories in last year's polling (fanzine, letterhack) and at least some votes in another (fanwriter), that's possibly enough to push me up into at least the top ten in the "add up all the points received" final tallying. On the other hand, there *are* things I've done over the years that might gain me votes in a separate Fan Face category, such as producing various special publications (*Ah! Sweet Laney!*, *Fanorama*, editing three fanthologies, *Best of Frap*) and having been part of the glue as FAPA Secretary-Treasurer since 1986 that's held the organization more together than it might have been under other circumstances.

In your comments on the humorist category you write, "There's a changing of the guard among fan humorists and I'd like to give some extra prominence to some of the newer humorists like Peter Sullivan." I guess I must not be seeing the same fanzines you are, Arnie, because I don't recall anything especially humorous by Peter.

Elsewhere you write: "One of the most famous fanzines of all time was the issue of Terry Carr and Ron Ellick's *Fanac* with their exhaustive write-up of one of the annual polls. It also sported a cover of Trina Robbins, holding a copy of *Fancylopedia II* over Strategic Places. They called it the 'I hate the *Fancylopedia* cover'—and with good reason." Funny, I don't remember it being called that but I can understand why.

I already commented on your "Who Are Fandom's Greatest?" article in a LoC to *VFW*, so will refer SNAPsters to whatever issue of *VFW* in which Arnie runs it. But one thing I didn't comment on in my letter is your writing that I've "become the best letter-writer in the history of fanzine fandom." While it's true that I've been a letterhack since my neofan days (you'll recall my mentioning the "Cry Letterhack" card in a previous mailing) and that at times I've been prolific (and, to be fair, at other times I've been minimalist) I'm slightly uncomfortable with the word "best" when applied to my output. Perhaps



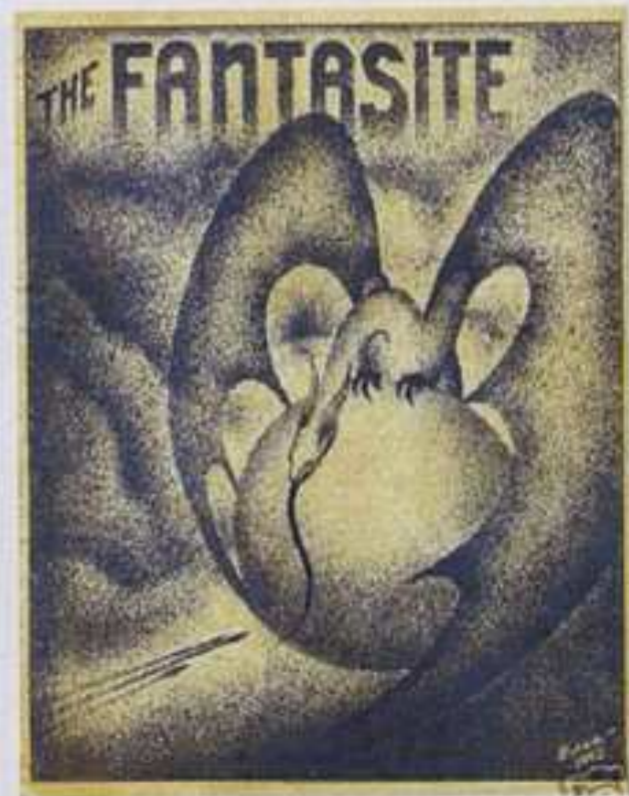


you're looking at the long, steady stream of LoCs you've received from me in recent years on *VFW* as indicative. I would note that my output and the length of my LoCs has increased since I retired because I have much more time to devote to them. But choosing *VFW* as one of my primary focuses is in keeping with what I've been doing all along: making sure I have a presence in whatever focal point fanzine(s) are around at any given time. For example, the zine that got the most attention from me before you came around was *Apparatchik* back in the '90s. And currently I've recently decided that Dave Burton's *Pixel* should also be a regular venue for my letters. But "best"!? I'll have to go back and reread my file of, for instance, *VoM*, to see if there's any basis for applying that adjective to me.

Thanks for the egoboo about my getting the brown/McInerney *Focal Point* scanned and available online. (I wish I could get the few missing issues and complete the task.) Like you, I love newszines and make a point of seeking them out for my fanzine collection. You write: "It would be great if we could also get *Fanac*, *Starspinkle/Ratatosk* and the second run of *Focal Point* that rich brown and I produced in the late 1960's and 1970." I agree, and I would add Larry and Noreen Shaw's *Axe* to the list. (And going back into the fannish past I'd also include Jack Speer's *Stefnews*.) The problem with most of these is that they're much larger projects than the one I completed. Most likely to be done would be Ron Ellik's *Starspinkle*; it had only 54 issues and with the exception of the final one they are all only one or two pages. I have a complete run and might tackle it sometime. (I have all of *Ratatosk*, too, but scanning it would involve unbinding the reprint volume Bruce Pelz did in 1991. I don't have the original issues.)

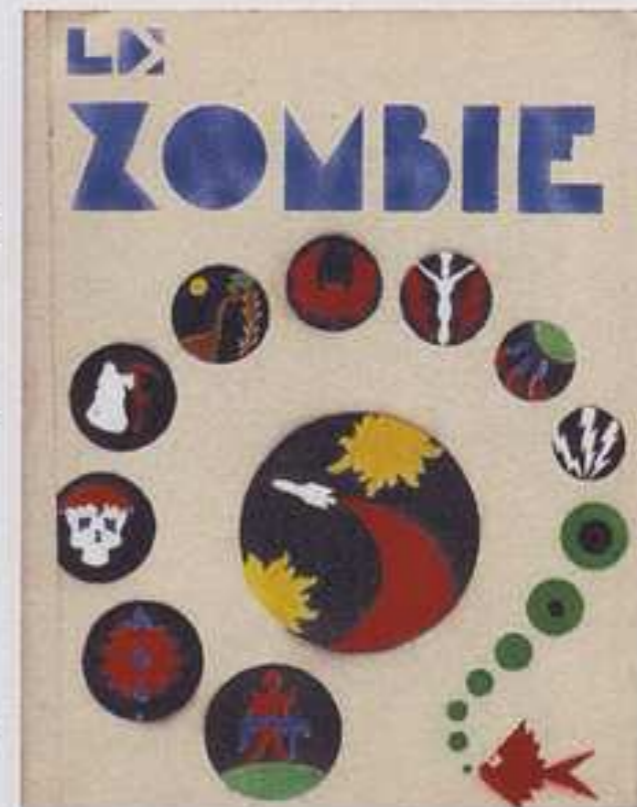
To me you also write: "I have started to wonder about this 'graying of Fandom' stuff. No question that, over the long haul, Fandom has gone from being primarily a hobby for teens and college students to one that is enjoyed by a wider (and older) demographic. In that sense, the graying of Fandom is irrefutable. But if you mean that Core Fandom is growing older year by year, I'm not sure you're correct. I suspect that the average age of Core Fandomites was younger at the end of 2006 than it was at the beginning of the year. The current year could well see the continuation of this trend."

While I don't disagree with you given that the dying of our older lifetime fans *does* skew the overall demographic younger, I was writing about the situation in a specific apa while commenting on Ross's 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." I consider SAPS's age statistics to be unrepresentative of the whole of Core Fandom.

It's good to read that you've gotten back into walking for exercise, and I definitely relate to your observation, "that first walk around the block definitely reminded me that I need to walk more." When I first got my elliptical trainer last summer my initial sessions on it told me the same thing. Over time I've built up both strength, speed and endurance, and look forward to my daily "walk." In addition, I'm up and down the stairs between my basement office/library/fanden and the main floor of the house many times a day, and that provides more exercise. Add to that my periodic adventures in yardwork on a front yard that's a steep cliff, and you have a fellow fan in pretty decent shape.



Joyce Katz: Congratulations on landing the Plaza for the third Vegas Corflu. I'm going to enjoy staying there again and seeing everyone.

The unsolicited communications you get as a result of your writing for NativeRadio.com remind me of the occasional odd things that pop up in my mail because of various places where the existence of *Trap Door* is mentioned. More than once I've had aspiring (but bad) SF authors send me the first chapter of their masterwork in hopes that I'll want to see more. Some of them have wanted me to return their manuscript with comments but neglect to include postage money. Those hit the recycle bin pretty fast. Still other people have favored me with piles of their stfnal poetry, making me wonder if Steve Sneyd might once have mentioned me in passing. (As you may know, he does an SF poetry fanzine that's entirely handwritten.) And then there are the people who write out of the blue their two- or three-line epistles requesting a sample copy. No money enclosed, not even a stamp, and never anyone I've ever heard of. Since every mention of *Trap Door* I've ever seen in unusual venues always carries the single-copy price, these people don't get answered, either. Maybe this sounds harsh, but it's not quite the same thing as the people who contact you.



You inquire of me, "Your description of the monumental effort of scanning the first run of *Focal Point* prompts me to say 'well done!'...and to ask if you intend to do the same for the rich brown/Arnie Katz



H A B A K K U K

years.” Unfortunately, because those are all much larger than the issues in the brown/McInerney run I don’t have plans to do this. Perhaps someone else will be inspired to do it. As I wrote above, I’m more inclined to tackle Ron Ellik’s wonderful *Starsparkle*.

“Your comments to Laurraine about the temporary price increases in farm produce prompt me to remark that the increases in Vegas have held on. Lettuce is outtasite, and the price of a dozen eggs is almost as much as the price for a gallon of gasoline. Part of this might be the market I frequent.” That could be; different grocery stores’ pricing strategies vary widely. I’d suggest trying Trader Joe’s for eggs; as I recall, I pay just over a dollar a dozen there.

“The Navahos did beautiful woolen weaves. Where did they get the sheep? How early did they start herding sheep and making wool?” According to the sources I consulted, they got their sheep from their Spanish neighbors in the mid-1600s and began herding them and making yarn from the wool. For more please check out <http://www.recursos.org/sheepislife/history.html>.

You write: “...I do understand the fannish desire to hold onto the paper standard. It’s just that it seems to be an obviously doomed effort—the cost of paper, the cost of printing, the astounding cost of postage—these things make the old way of doing things very prohibitive. I know I disliked giving up the satisfying feel of a printed fanzine, of seeing those stacks of beautiful copies, the joy of putting these perfect little gifts into the mail to distant friends. It was hard to give up such a sensational hobby. But I’d far rather give up paper publishing than give up fanzine fandom altogether. And that really was what the choice became. As it will likely become the measure against which all fan publishers will have to weigh their activity.”

And as you know from the latest *Trap Door*, after wavering around about this very subject I decided it simply wasn’t in my bones to give up doing an all-paper edition to go either all-electronic or partly so (like Marty Cantor does with his *No Award*). My compromise was to post the electronic version of an issue after the next paper one comes out. But if in future it really does become impossible for me to continue publishing a paper fanzine, perhaps for reasons of health and decrepitude (no longer able to deal with the physical aspects involved in post-production), I’ll have to reconsider. Like you, I don’t think I could give up fanzine production altogether.

-oOo-

