



First, thanks to everyone who cast votes for me in the first SNAPS egoboo poll. It's always a pleasure to be recognized by one's fannish peers, no matter how many years one has been at this.

The big news (pathetic as it is) this month is that I got a new file cabinet. On Friday, September 30th, I took advantage of a sale at OfficeMax and bought a new 25-inch full-suspension 4-drawer file cabinet to replace an 18-inch 4-drawer non-full suspension one I've had for about ten years. Non-suspension means that the drawers don't open all the way, so with an 18-inch cabinet you get about 12 inches of useful space in each drawer. The new cabinet came the following Monday morning, and as a bonus the two Mexicans who hauled it downstairs

were glad to take away that 18-inch non-suspension one.

Once I got the new one out of its carton and put it in place I noticed a **problem**: unlike the picture in their flyer, the drawers weren't high-sided so one can put in hanging files without additional hardware. The advertisement had shown high sides. It also came with only two of the four wire things one puts in the back of the drawers to keep the files from sliding around if the drawer isn't full. So, I gathered up my receipts, the inspection slip inside the cabinet, and the advertisement, which I had thankfully kept, and drove down to OfficeMax (not all that far away).

The manager there was both embarrassed and annoyed. The annoyance wasn't, however, directed at me but instead at the "marketing department" over the misrepresentation in the ad and at Hon (the manufacturer) for not putting in enough of the wire things. He made it right by me, though: gave me two more wire things (which he removed from one of the display models) and four "hanging file frames" (and not cheap ones, either, but the fancy ones made by Pendaflex). And apologized all over the place for the whole situation. I went away happy.

And now the cabinet is in place, the hanging file frames are installed, and I've put everything that filled four drawers of the old 18-inch cabinet into three drawers of this one (with room to spare). And I have **an entire empty drawer*!!!* This is such sheer luxury I can hardly believe it. However, the 2-drawer cabinet that holds my "special" fanzines is pretty tight and I'll be moving some of it over.



Another project waiting in the wings is to rearrange the many file drawers holding my main fanzine collection. (The one I just got has my own publications in the top two drawers and a bunch of miscellaneous stuff that's mostly not fanzines for the most part in the bottom drawer.) Some of the drawers have extra space while others are tight. The ones that have tightened up the most contain (as you might guess) the fanzines of Arnie and Joyce (and also Earl Kemp). It's easy enough to move things around, but then I'll have to relabel all the drawers so I'll be able to easily find stuff.

Charles Fuller: I tried really hard to get interested in your "Godzilla?" article but failed miserably. On the other hand I *did* enjoy your Hanna-Barbera reminiscences— probably as a result of our age differences, you had much more exposure to their wider body of work than I did.

John Purcell: Like you, I was also relieved to learn that no fans of my acquaintance were on that Minneapolis bridge when it went down.

Thanks for the information that Halperin bought Harry's fanzine collection directly from Jerry Weist. Naturally that makes me curious to know how much Jerry made acting as middleman in the deal. I also appreciated your description of approximately how much space the many boxes took up in Halperin's storage room. You write that there were "8 storage shelf units of 4' long x 2' deep x 6' high (which is 48 cubic feet) – something like 384 cubic feet, probably more. I didn't count the number of boxes, but they were all of a good size (2'x2'x2') and each probably held a couple hundred zines at least." This translates to four dozen of those boxes if the shelving is full. That's a lot! When I got Boyd Raeburn's fanzine collection—he left it to me in his will—it came in seven boxes of the same size as you describe and was by far the largest collection that's come my way. My collection is currently housed in a variety of file cabinets totaling forty drawers that average just over two feet deep and are mostly pretty full. I also have six 10-ream paper boxes containing apa mailings (double-stacked within each box). This comes to around 125 cubic feet. Of course, Harry kept *everything* (including complete apa mailings) and I don't. Still, visualizing a fanzine collection about three times the size of mine is pretty amazing. I am (slightly) humbled!

"Back in the mid-60s, I wasn't much on comic books. Most of my spending money as a kid went





towards baseball cards and vinyl (45's and LP's). Wish I still had them all, too. Imagine what that stash my brother and I acquired during that decade would be worth nowadays." If you slip back a decade or so my spending money went to much the same things. My peak comic book reading period was from around 1951 through 1955, but I didn't collect them. My friends and I would exchange comics back and forth, and every now and then we'd set up a card table at curbside by one of our houses and sell them off to other kids in the neighborhood. But I had nearly complete sets of the 1952, 1953 and 1954 Topps baseball cards, and the process of collecting them had me blowing lots of bubbles (and a significant chunk of my social activity involved trading back and forth with fellow pre-teen collectors). A little

after that it was 45s—I had over three hundred of them and when I was getting ready to go off to Tennessee I gave them all to Greg Shaw (*Metanoia, Who Put the Bomp, etc.*). (I also had a couple thousand LPs at that point, too, but that's another story.) And yes, I know that a lot of future value went by the wayside with all these.

Cool that your wife still does tie-dying! Yes, please do post some photos of her work here. (And perhaps wear some of it at Corflu next year?)

"I disagree with your projected trend to digest-sized zines like *Trap Door* due to the recent postal increases....If anything, it may spur more folks to going straight on-line...the days of a faneditor eating the postal costs are long gone....I guess we could easily say that this is a sign of the times." I may have spoken too soon. What I've noticed so far is that a number of U.S. paper fanzine publishers have taken to folding their letter-sized zines in half and cramming them into a 6x9 envelope. Of course, the quarter-inch thickness limitation and the 3½-ounce weight limit for the cheaper rate will dictate how many do that. I took a copy of my zine in an envelope down to the post office a couple weeks ago and had them check it out. It passed muster, so instead of facing a 27¢ increase in postage over the last issue I'm happily looking forward to a 12¢ decrease. (And the overseas rates haven't gone up much.) I'm supporting *Trap Door* as a paper fanzine by holding an occasional private auction of duplicate fanzines and intend to continue it on paper only for the foreseeable future (and posting the *previous* issue on Bill Burn's site once the next one is out).

"Man, I love Brad Foster's illoes." I like them, too, although he's not my favorite fan artist. He sent me headings for my editorial and letter columns



which will show up in the next issue or two. (My favorite fan artists, in case you were wondering, are Dan Steffan and Steve Stiles. Brad and Ross Chamberlain are next in line.)

Joyce Katz: You write about the change of seasons in Las Vegas, "I'm always surprised at how quickly the desert gives up its heat, when the sun goes down." With the move into October, we're into that delicious time of year when our nighttime temperatures also dip quickly into the cooler reaches and we can sleep much better than when our so-called summer happens and brings overly warm (to our taste) nights. Even if we get a warm spell—which we usually do sometime in October—this holds true. Our favorite time of day is the cool, crisp mornings.

"...Although I do own a warm coat, I haven't worn it for ten- fifteen years." I have a heavy-duty down parka that I bought back in the late '80s that I probably haven't worn for at least a decade myself. I have two L. L. Bean warm coats (the "Baxter State Parka" and the "Maine Warden's Parka"—both with Thinsulate™ lining instead of the bulky down that's the only kind available now) that I also haven't worn much in recent years (especially since I retired). These days in cooler weather I switch back and forth between a lightweight insulated jacket and a lightly lined leather jacket. Both serve me well in the relatively mild Bay Area winters.

"I have finally resigned my column with Exhibit City News." Although I enjoyed reading your columns for them, given the changes you describe here I can well understand why you gave it up. Writing for Native Radio seems to me a better fit for your interests and abilities (and I've liked all of them, too, needless to say).



"In my adulthood, the only ones I tended to collect were *Classic Comics* — the art wasn't much, but the stories were good. I still have a small stack of CC around here." I assume you mean *Classics Illustrated* here, and confess that somewhere in a box I have a handful of them, too. Of the other comics you mention, I had a spell of reading the Archie series and also Plasticman, but never heard of the others.

Arnie Katz: "What's taking most of my professional time is a novel. To refresh memories, I was hired to ghost write a novel. The price was good enough for me to take the assignment as practice, to



The Zombie



published every time a zombie awakens

see if this long-time nonfiction writer can produce fiction, too." Given your equally long-time writing of often excellent faan-fiction, I predict a favorable outcome. Is this novel science-fiction or...?

It was interesting to read your survey of the local Vegas fan clubs, especially the more personal stuff such as who drank too much and/or got into hassles with other members. Although I live in an area thick with fans and fan clubs, I've never been moved to participate in any organized activities. I don't even go to any of the local conventions (except when Corflu and/or Potlatch are in town, and in the latter case I tend to show up for one evening and let it go at that). As you know, my involvement in fandom is mainly with the larger and widespread Core Fandom, and my local involvement is strictly on a social level with fans who are also long-

standing old friends.

I agree with your views on the relationship between Core Fandom and the myriad other fandoms that have sprung out of the crucible of our creation. The (ahem!) core of your argument is summed up where you write, "All those groups have the right to their standards, but so do we. It has recently occurred to me that I may be wrong to criticize con runners for being money-oriented pseudo-capitalists without fannish sensibilities. Why shouldn't they do things the way they think right, even if some of it makes me retch? They don't have to hew to the standards of Core Fandom, nor should we expect them to, because they are part of a separate subculture with its own standards and practices." Yes, exactly, but of course it cuts both ways—they should return the favor of tolerance. And I think that for the most part they do.

"I will promise that I will do complete eMailing Comments in the next SNAPS bundle." I look forward to this! It's been too long.

Finally, when Arnie sent out the last mailing, he wrote in the accompanying e-mail: "By the way, I have decided, in response to requests by a couple of members, to no longer have the mailings posted. We might want to consider posting one a year or so, but I think the apa has now grown beyond that need. Let those who lurk do a page or two."

My response was: "As one of the members who didn't like my SNAPS contribution accessible by Google, I'm glad to read the above—and also happy that in a recent Google-check the SNAFFU Website is *history* and all the past mailings inaccessible



even though some of them still turn up in the results (but won't download). I do *Vegas by the Bay* for the *members*, not the world at large, and was seriously thinking of dropping out when I noticed this leakage earlier in the year. I'd rather not post 'one a year or so,' either. If someone is curious about SNAPS to the point of considering membership, they could ask for a single sample mailing just like people now buy FAPA mailings for the same purpose."

Three members responded to my (and Arnie's) comments. First Chris Garcia wrote: "Oddly, I'm on the other hand. I think having mailings up for the world is a wonderful thing, and I kept up with Vegas fandom through SNAPS when I wasn't a member, and I wish all the mailing would be up there, but I understand that some folks aren't into that, which is fine. I think the One a Year is a great idea if it would be pre-announced so that folks who didn't want their content out there could either skip that mailing or alter their content accordingly."

John Purcell wrote: "I agree with Robert, here. Just like last week when I received the latest FAPA disty on spec from Mike McInerney, if anybody is interested in seeing SNAPS, they can ask Arnie or whoever is OE for a sample disty to be either e-mailed or snail-mailed to them. An apazine is meant for its members. However, if any individual apa members want to send copies of their particular contribution to folks outside the apa, that is their decision, and I don't mind that at all. That's what I do with Lloyd Penney; he asked to get current issues of *Nukking Futz*, so he gets them. Besides, if he eventually gets the time, he might join. I sure hope so. But Lloyd has now been quite busy on the work front, so that's good news. We shall see if time allows him to join our boisterous band of brothels, er, I mean, brothers. The Nevada influence affected that last sentence."

And finally we heard from Teresa Cochran: "I don't mind my SNAPS contributions and other APA writings being posted, but I respect the wishes of others, and there's something to be said for fannish tradition, too."

I was disappointed that others didn't also register their opinion, although perhaps some will in their contributions to this mailing. Clearly we have a variety of views from just Chris, John and Teresa, and I don't want the subject to die after only three of us weighed in. I'd like to see this discussion continue—in the *private* pages of SNAPS.

