

# Clear Ether!



is the all-purpose personalzine of Samuel Edward Konkin III. It is published irregularly (about thrice a month) for exchange with other Science Fiction fanzines and for the following Amateur Press Associations: APA-L, APA-v, *Alarums & Excursions*, *Frefanzine*, and any others the editor is invited to join. *Clear Ether* is available only for trade, letter-of-comment, or in APA. *Clear Ether*, Volume II, combines *Clear Ether*, Volume I (APA-v), *Tarzine of the APAs* (APA-L), *The Competitive Quest* (A&E), *Frefanac!*, and the faanish components of *New Libertarian Notes* (Volume II). All correspondence should be sent to New Libertarian Enterprises, P.O. Box 1748, Long Beach, CA 90801, Attention: SEK3.

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## EXPLANATION OF THIS PUBLICATION

I'm tired of long-winded explanations from fanzines as to what they are, why they are, what they should be and why they're not. I'm sure you are, too. After all, if you use the wit Ghu loaned you, you can figure it out for yourself. So on to more interesting matters.

## LA 2000 CON

Having attended only one West Coast Con previously (NASFiC), Your Friendly Neighbourhood Anarchofaneditor cannot draw from a large data storage to compare with LA 2000. But was sure *different*.

° It was, I believe, the smallest Con I have been to—and in Los Angeles, that says something. Registerin 9 PM Friday (in the middle of the Con Suite Party—the only party!—I was given number 147. I suppose they must have eventually broken 200 [latest word is they hit 199]. PghLange '74 was bigger.

° It was what it advertised—the birthday party for LASFS members, past, present, and future; in L.A. and abroad. With the exception of token Long Beach SFALBers, I don't remember meeting a single non-LASFS member! O, Portent of the Future: one local club able to single-handedly sustain a regional convention. At the level of an average regional con of five or ten years ago. O Sense of Wonder!

° As has become usual with me, I avoided the programme. Maybe when I travel to a con and have to stay right at the hotel, I *might* consider killing time in panels and speeches. And I'll always try to honour the GoH by sitting through his address (even gritting my Romantic Teeth through Harlan Ellison). So no comment on it, except that there was no unusual draw to attract me.

° One cannot mention films in connections with LASFS without evoking the legendary Bill Warren. Supercinefan ran the projector and his choice of cartoons (ten by Chuck Jones) broke up a D&D game upstairs, drawing in even confirmed film-avoiders as myself. This is still the only con I know which had exactly one movie—and from what little I saw (the ending), a good fantasy flick masquerading as a horror.

° Dungeons and Dragons abounded. From the Northern Wastes came the Hannifens, from the Exotic City of Tokyo, the Golds, from Southern Marshes of the Long Beach, the McIntoshes, Thornton, and YFNA. And from the Mental Desert came Jack Harness and his Mad Scientist, Dr. Atomic. Frank "Mercenary" Gasperik DMed his fabled Godholm. Playing Los Angeles-style was confusing but educational. The level of fighting was far higher than I'd ever seen before. I'd never before been in a party high enough to take on a dragon, let alone two blues, a family of at least four greens, and whatever the hell was under that stream. Ted Johnstone, playing an efrete named Tedrom, blew my mind when he got teed off by a blue dragon's hit, and chased it down, flushing it single-handedly! Owen Hannifen's magic-user was throwing Dimension Doors around, while Doc Atomic dynamited away at a lead wall around a chunk of gold. My poor old fifth level Zoroastrian cleric, Merxes, could hardly get a spell in edgewise. He threw a Purify spell against the chlorine breath which proved unnecessary when Hilda's magic-user simply repelled it.

All in all enjoyable, but as I predicted, the largeness of the party proved cumbersome. A good reason I was not put out by failing to get in a previous dungeon Friday night.

° Parties were few; in fact, I know only of the one in the Con Suite. Again, this was an advantage of a small con in that everybody was at the Party on Friday night. YFNA had a great time meeting the legendary Kees Van Toorn and a few APA-L contributors (Hilda Hannifen, Lee Gold, Kheft Salerno) who were only names in a zine. Tom Digby organized a superb late-dinner group.

Actually, reviewing LA 2000 here, I realize it was more enjoyable than I felt at the time, having to run off to meet a deadline Sunday, and taking an expedition to Aero Hobby in Santa Monica on Saturday, only to find the jerk refused to stock the D&D dice because he felt the price was too high to charge his customers! [I have since got the decimal dice in Lakewood at The Military Shop.] Talk about price-control brainwashing and WIN! As far as a fat sale to me (at least two full sets of dice at \$5 a throw—so to speak) he did LOSE!

## EN GARDE AT THE RIPOSTE OFFICE

APA-v 12 & 13(?)

Richard Friedman Needless to say, I apologize for being late for 13 (saw Bob's copy briefly; where's mine?) and I hope this ish will catalyze the next collation. Perhaps the scattered distance we have acquired will actually awaken enthusiasm in our dormant zine. Inevitably APA-v will have to become a letterzine like APA-L. Phil Seligman and I were two of the most frequent contributors, add in the Thornton and we are bound to influence APA-v towards personal communications. Frankly, I hope it doesn't die; I also would like to see the new NYUSFS members get involved. May I assume a collation is planned for MidAmeriCon?

I am intrigued by your latest post card concerning professional harassment. More about it in U&IP or in personal letter? Happy Chanukkah and New Year!

Mike Moslow Let me know if you have read *Illuminatus* yet; otherwise I will send you and Cyndi the three-volume set for Christmas. Try to get a zine done, I'm actually suffering from a shortage of your verbiage! ¶ As I long ago promised, you are invited to submit for NLW—for real fiat money! Go, go, go!

¶ Thanks for the letter. Hope to reply soon.

Cuneifan Happy Chanukkah to you; Ghu knows when your New Year is way over there. If you haven't got a letter from me by the time this zine arrives, you may exercise a choice Babylonian spell upon me. Let's make this APA go if we have to collate ourselves 10,000 miles (cumulatively) from NYU!

Judith Goldstein Have you an/or Flounder got into Dungeons and Dragons yet? If not, any objection to a set of the rules (and dice, now that I found them) for Christmas presents? Has Solarian (East) Dance Fandom had any more outings? Ghu and Roscoe, I owe you a letter too! ¶ And don't forget, Save the Great Delis!

Cyndi Warren I have not received a missive from thee in many moons. Hast thou determined to fulfill my grim prophecy? I assume we shall have filks a-plenty in this collation. [Just remembered that you were one of the few zines in that copy of Bob's—hard core and trufanish!] Thanks again for the delayed birthday present; I still need the one Fu Manchu before that (*Emperor Fu Manchu*). And for that you get an invitation to the Fifth Annual Heinlein-Konkin Birthday Party.

Marc Glasser Have you come in from the fringe yet? There's a radio show out here in L.A. you would love called *Dr. Demento*, which played "Dr. Demento's Top 10," including your favourite, "Hurray for Captain Spaulding," and mine "The Cockroach That Ate Cincinnati," "The Vatican Rag," and others of that ilk. It closes with the line, "and don't forget—stay demented!"

Ken Kalcheim You owe me around five communiques. No comments till you pay up. And whatever happened to your Dipzine contribution? Since I could not pub until I got your move, frankly, old man, you killed it.

Art Tobias Are you still hanging around these loonies? It was so reasonable back with those Jesus freaks! Any chance you can make it to MidAmeriCon? I want to get a picture of you next to Elliot Shorter. Do get a zine in; I'd like to hear from you.

Harry Andruschak Did you get a zine in? I didn't see you in Bob's copy of *nu 13*.

Alan Katerinsky I saved you for last. From what I heard of your birthday party, it was almost as unreal as a H-K. I'm wondering how far out it can get as you get up to my age!

**Anyone I missed** If you're in this collation, get you next ish. And anybody above who ain't in this, don't get no comment. That's the way the game's played. (Veiled Threat)

## APA-L Ripostes

APA-L 549 (Concluded)

Vic Koman (concluded) Seems you've been cut off.

**John Hertz** I have heard a good review of a Hubbard book by a hard-to-please fan.

**Tom Digby** I know of only one person who could loosely be called libertarian (and not by me) who considers the State as a self-evident truth. Nearly all I know have derived the position from prior ethical positions, usually the Right to Life (anarcho-objectivism), opposition to authority (anarcho-communism), or opposition to legitimizing murder and plunder (me and most other libertarians). The Right to Property qualifies as a self-evident. For example, do you own your denial of it (should you do so)? If not, then I may seize it and change it to an affirmative. You won't write it down? Then I will seize the air around your mouth and manipulate the air-waves! You will only think the denial? Well, do you claim your brain as property? If not... A *self-evident truth* is one whose denial also denies itself (i.e. generates a contradiction). The reason *this* libertarian has not been giving away "good arguments that statism is evil..." is because mine are good enough to *sell!*

APA-L 550

**Tom Digby** You didn't mention what Thomas means and whether you'd be busted by the Truth-in-Names squad. Frankly, I don't think I'd have a chance with *Samuel* "chosen to speak for God." ¶ Much as I like Betty Boop, I would remain loyal to Nobody. Now if Betty (sorry, Ms Boop) would accept as Nobody's running mate... Also, Nobody is safe from assassination!... ¶ Your analogy about "Sci-fi" and "little round windows" is excellent.

¶ If it's the Rabid Transit District, it might explain why it's so hard to catch in the rain.

**Lee Gold** As we close with your Japanese travelogues, I should mention that you are the only APA-Ler I have met who is far more interesting in person than in print. [Disclaimer: not meant as put-down to anyone else, more of a curiosity.] ¶ Your "gambits" are translatable into fandom and the Movement.

**Dan Goodman** I went through the same thing with a tooth just before I moved here. \**empathy*\* ¶ I'll believe the Soviet State is waning if they lose in Angola. It's taking on both the U.S. one and the Chinese one—and winning! ¶ Interesting about Mormon conversions if your statistics are accurate. From my own "missionary work," I've found their technique to be bad salesmanship. Two possibilities: the original description of their technique was incorrect or anomalous, or they haven't used up all the mindless followers in the market yet. ¶ In *what* other words is the present State willing to issue me a license to practice anarchism [sic]? I'm doing an awful lot of things without a license. My [sic] was to denote "anarchism" as your term. I am an anarchist (one who recognizes no State over him) but not a believer in "anarchism" (an ideology whose basis is statelessness). The difference, if it is not clear, is that I *derive* anarchy as a means to an end (libertarian society), and followers of "anarchism" *start* with that premise. ¶ Of course you are correct on how a "Libertarian" congressman would react. There are a lot of naive "libertarians" who will learn the hard way what they refuse to accept from those of us who went through the political process in our evolution. ¶ I only *think* I am? But, *cogito ergo sum!*

**Kheft Salerno** A.k.a. Laura Terminello. Have we got another Johnstone/McDaniels? And which is your fan name? ¶ You must have been over the flu by LA 2000—you seemed in great shape.

**Marty Cantor** Your explanation/apology/defense to Ted rings true with my own experience. Furthermore, Pro David McDaniels should be on your side as to "style makes the piece" or "the medium is the message." But I have found the quickest and easiest way to dismiss an argument I don't want to bother with is humour. The proper place for anger and emoting is at the end of a serious analytic attack where the reader has been given a chance to build up the same emotion. ¶ I'll let Ted have first crack at answering—so far he hasn't. But there is something I wish to

bring up in his defense that he probably will not. Last Thursday, the aftermeeting of Lee Gold, Frank Gasperik, Ted, Neil Schulman, Bob Cohen and me were doing the usual no-holds-barred type of banter that goes on with libertarians and fellow travellers at a place Frank picked called Mago's. At one point Lee made some comments on Jewish weddings, and a Mexican-American in the food line walked over and objected to the very mention of Judaism in his Catholic presence. Asked if he believed in freedom of speech, he denied it. Two allies joined him belligerently. At that point, Ted loudly called him a "fascist," as Lee attempted to draw us away. These thugs jeered and hurled epithets as the party began to retreat, so I hung back, throwing a few ideology probes at them, then began laying a guilt trip on them. I then noticed the rest of the group had lined up, probably assuming I was in trouble. Since I couldn't explain my manipulative techniques without blowing them, I simply moved to join them, just as the leader was apologizing for harassing a "man of non-violence." (Some other time I'll go into my past political education, if you're interested, but this piece is for Ted.) So as you can see, Ted is demonstrably anti-fascist, where it counts—laying his ass on the line. ¶ Two quick points I cannot resist making: Neither Rand nor I believe in the natural "goodness" of man—man is self-made morally. And your natural affinity group, Marty [and Allan, too], is not the Hebraic tribe but an alliance of anti-totalitarians. For example, I assume you would have lined up with us if we had been discussing German weddings in New York and some J.D.L. punks had threatened us. (Yes it can and *does* happen.) And I'm sure you know the libertarians in the Third Reich fled or were shot long before the round-up of Jews began.

**Fred Patten** I'm reading Eric Lindsay's Aussiecon report right now. It should be interesting comparing your versions.

**John Hertz** I must agree with Karen Anderson; it's just not that important to receive a sensation that will kill you. Use a thermometer or pyrometer rather than boiling your blood and frying your flesh.

**Matthew B. Tepper** Before I forget, I remember you introducing yourself while I was surrounded by various people conducting business with me (Neil sticking a manuscript into my hands, Vic wondering where his repro was for CounterCampaign, and I think someone [Marty Cantor] actually had something fannish to discuss). You then vanished, never to re-appear. The first five minutes of my arrival sometimes get hectic when all sorts of people I don't see elsewhere (what's Neil's excuse?) descend on me. After that, I have copious free time (I'd be glad to walk out of the auction, for example, to rap with you). So if all is forgiven, I hope to see you next time you're in town. Maybe I'll be up to SF (as opposed to sf) for a fan gathering soon and await your pleasure! ¶ I also heard you were complaining about my not offering to agent your zine. Since you didn't know me from Anarcho-Adam, it hadn't occurred to me. But since none of my other out-of-town friends have taken up my offers, I'd be glad to do yours. Long as I don't have to mimeo—you can see what lengths I'll go to to avoid that! ¶ Your idea of Holmes meeting a composer sounds good. Has anyone done an SF story around a future composer? Rotsler has done an artist, of course. ¶ Kheft Salerno a hoax? I knew she was too good-looking to be a fan! (All present, past, and future femfem exempted of course!—disclaimer). ¶ Gold is not a fiat currency. A fiat currency is one *imposed* by the State. Anything imposed by the State cannot have its market value known, since the market has been driven underground, and only "black market" and "government decreed" prices then exist. The point against fiat is not that you cannot find somebody to take it, but that you and I are forced by the point of a gun to accept it (*legal tender* laws). ¶ A most reasonable position of yours on psychoanalysis and Scientology. Scientology has such a bad reputation that only those who are determined to get hooked will buy it; psychiatry has a good press and needs thorough debunking. Should you get an urge to make up your mind about the psych's, my recommendation is Thomas Szasz's *The Myth of Mental Illness*. (Warning: he's a libertarian.) **Bill Warren** Gotcha on movie criticism! Will evaluate your future reviews accordingly.

**Bernie Zuber** Good cover, as I told you. Care to do any illos/fillers for **Clear Ether** if not NLW? (But NLW pays!)

**NEXT ISSUE:** D&D rides again for A&E 7, more APA-L catch-up, and who knows?