

# 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.

This issue is Number 2 (of Volume II) and is intended primarily for APA-L 553 (December 25, 1975). A Revisionist Christmas and Laissez Faire New Year to all; may Anarcho Claus be good to you.

## PLANNED CHAOS (Lawfully, though)

Change in plans from previous announcement has occurred. I seem to be getting this ish on time, and I hope to catch up on APA-L comments all at once. So *next* ish will be primarily D&D, then a *Frefanzine* submission, and if nothing comes up, something totally out of the blue following that. To all you non-APA-Lers out there: You are receiving this in a mailing with other copies of *Clear Ether!*; it is included for completists and those who hang on my every word (Hi, Mom!). May I remind you that *loes* to *Clear Ether!* will get priority over even APA replies?

## EN GARDE AT THE RIPOSTE OFFICE

### APA-L 550 (Concluded)

**Hilda Hannifen** I definitely enjoyed meeting Owen and you though all too briefly and quite late. Sorry I couldn't make the Sunday conclusion of the expedition, but I heard Lee did well with Merxes. ¶ If I decide to go to SF for fanac, you'll be forewarned in APA-L. If not, a letter; yes, a phone call if I can't avoid it. (Hate those things.) ¶ Compliment well deserved; you are the best story-teller in A&E, with Dick Eney running a close second. Soon as I do one, I'll use your writing as standard.

¶ Very sorry indeed that I could not get into a genuine SF dungeon, one of three you said you packed.

**Mark Swanson** "Zzzz?" Maybe you don't get the jokes? **Lee Gold** "Klingstein"? Good idea for a zine, by the way. Has it been tried before?

**Allan Rothstein** You kept to four pages. Good boy! ¶ Your "condensed paintings" are a wonderful idea, and probably took a lot of time. (I still remember your complaint of unappreciated Higgledy-Piggledies.) A dollop of egoboo. \*smurch\* I can't wait for the digest *Venus de Milo* (or do statues count?).

**Dan Goodman** Re TM, Roling, et al. mentioned in connection with the libertarian movement. The main offender is called Rannette Daniels, who has a "Successful Living Institute," and whom I have yclept the "arch-advocate of psycholib." With luck, we'll stamp this nonsense out—or should I say with wit. Best antidote to mysticism is a hardy belly-laugh.

**Dan Deckert** Concerning your remark to Koman on fiat, see my comment thish to Tepper. ¶ A man without *explicit* postulates will act on whatever *implicit* ones he picked up (re your comment to Tom Digby). ¶ OK, name one contradiction. Put up or drop it. (Personal correspondence, if you prefer.)

**Ted Johnstone** Buck up, old man, you made it!

**Virginia Bowers** Congratulations on undercutting your own position on gun registration by favouring car registration. Owning a vehicle or a gun or a breadbox is a right—privileges are for States and their lickspittles. I leave you to Bill Warren's tender mercies now...

**Hilda Hannifen** And such "politicians on the make" businessmen stand condemned as plutocrats as well. ¶ It's easy to get porno D&D stories if the DM screws around a lot. ¶ What is the thief stealing from himself?

**Tom Collins** Welcome back! (Have you been reading Charles Williams lately?) ¶ WNCN is back? ¶ Think Tepper would like Procul Harum (and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra?)

¶ You'll get even more remarks from me if you'll *pub* even more. Glad to hear your delivery is smooth again. ¶ Wilson takes Discordianism seriously? You know the origin of the LDD, don't you? (Check with Danny and/or Sharon.)

**Dan Goodman** Your "futurereview" was tantalizing; original idea?

**Greg Chalfin** (re remark to Koman) Anybody can "proclaim" themselves anything they want. Would you accept their proclamation? Archy is unstable—look at State topple State. Have you ever seen an anarchy overthrown by a coup or have assassinations or even elections? Only violence and instability from anarchies have come from the States who have invaded them. Check your history—and use a bit of common sense on some "truisms."

### APA-L 551

**Roy Capella** This is my favourite all-time cover! The idea of having contributors on the cover is new to me; has it been done before? And how about more often?

**June Moffatt** "Welcome Home..." I could hear bands playing. \*sniff\* ¶ So your ditto's been into the wood alcohol again! Make us all blind. ¶ Concerning your remark to Ted, I assume you saw my description of his *actions* last ish? And in New York City, at least, more Nazis (there are only a few, imported from New Jersey) are beaten up by JDI.ers regularly when they expose themselves. Nazis are an endangered species.

**Ted Johnstone** Whew, the mysticism in this issue of *B-Roll Spiritual!* Prayers, Astrology, Velikovsky, and Loch Ness monsters. If Ayn could see you now... ¶ Read Marty Cantor's reply. Hell, he's lmore rational than you were *this* issue.

**Dick Eney** Law of Fives worked at an L.A.-S.F.-L.B. combo D&D game at L.A 2000; went abominably slow, though there were few disagreements, with eight people. ¶ How do you play living Dungeon-creatures? Only had one attempt so far, and I assume he

**Dick Eney** Law of Fives worked at an L.A.-S.F.-L.B. combo D&D game at L.A 2000; went abominably slow, though there were few disagreements, with eight people present. ¶ How do you play hiring Dungeon-creatures? Only had one attempt so far, and I assume the potential employee would have to be neutral. I would guess the DM has to decide. But there are problems with a DM playing *any* character in his own Universe. ¶ Right on with the filk! ¶ What I meant by disbelieving "cultural relativism" is that Man's relation to Natural Law is not relative to a culture. (Now if you changed Natural Law a la *The Gods Themselves*...) It's obvious to me, but if you want a well-stated, documented (and well-written) confirmation, read C.S. Lewis' *The Abolition of Man*. ¶ Like your riposte to Hertz. ¶ Additional support for your argument with Locke; Spain was never fully "fascistic," the Falange was in a three-way coalition with the Church/conservatives and Military. The Fascists were historically anti-Church and anti-military (e.g., Night of the Long Knives). Greece has not had a fascist government since 1944.

**Matthew Tepper** OK, "Matthew." ¶ Having lived in New York for five years (too many), I am convinced that the State would immediately split if it became independent. The upstate would go immediately, Long Island next, and Brooklyn might even secede from Manhattan. Now a "free port" is a good possibility, and economically reasonable. ¶ You have it entirely backwards on the economic foundations of space travel. Observe the collapse of the statist effort, and the State's uncanny ability to turn gold to dross. ¶ The word "militia" is not restrictive on the clause, but merely a "whereas." Maybe you should "READ IT" before you jump on Virginia. Registration of cars and guns are precisely comparable: your property is nobody else's business! ¶ Correct about the non-subversion of the Constitution. The Constitution was a "subversion" of the hard-won freedom of 1781-89. And I definitely hold it against Kennedy that he failed to even try to thwart vicious piece of paper.

**Dan Goodman** So if they knew so well they were acting to decrease economic well-being, how come they increased it? Do you know how rich those Quakers became by the time of the Revolution? ¶ Your revisionism on the U.N. is dead on target.

**Allan Rothstein** Down to two pages? APAs Anonymous first success. "Look at Mr. Rothstein; before, a bloated eight pages-a-day glutton; after, this slick, trim, humourous but not overblown, two pages. Yes, you too can reduce with APA-A!"

**Lee Gold** "Libertarian" is a broad category, including Galambosians (and even Galambists!), Rothbardians, LeFevrians, ex-Objectivists (a la Jarrett Wollstein and Roy Childs), VonuLifers, Brownians, and sometimes stretched out of all recognition to embrace Libertarian Party (ptui!-ankh or otherwise) and anarcho-communists. If you wish me to "let it go," I will, but I certainly have to include you definitionally. Even if you are a deviationist. ¶ But only individuals exist, so "societies" and other such collectives can get what they "need" from some individuals. Hence anti-libertarian action will make your "society" (or whatever worthy collective) less viable. ¶ Is there a sound system of psychology (and I include Branden and Daniels in my sweeping sneer)? There is a sound system of anti-psychology—see Thomas Szasz's *The Myth of Mental Illness*. (Of course he's a libertarian!) ¶ You really are a Klingstein? Must be a fascinating origin story behind that name.

**Marty Cantor** *Smokey Stover!* Of course. That explains everything!

**Fuzzy Pink Niven** Was the J.J. Coupling John R. Pierce? Ellen S. Coupling = I. and S coupling for non-quantum mechanics fans (also known as Russell-Saunders).

**Dan Deckert** Correct. My main "flaw" is that I cannot stand to see an incompetent libertarian get trounced for his inability to defend himself. I know it would be better for him to take his licks, but thanks to the "Guilt-by-Association" voodoo in our society, it is assumed that an idea is as bad as the man who has it. I'm even getting paranoid enough to suspect that some even initiate their arguments within my earshot so as to be "safe" if their potential convert has more brains than they do. Best way to keep me out of the discussion is to go after the libertarian who you are arguing with and not libertarianism. If you best him/her, he/she deserved it. ¶ Canadian whisky. (unacceptable to you) is Rye Whisky (acceptable) (least it was when I lived at home)? I'm a J.D. fan, myself. ¶ I'm a soft-core rock fan. ¶ Good illo.

**Bill Warren** I meant "New Wave" in SF. I wasn't aware there was a movie "New Wave," but it makes sense the sf New Wavicles weren't even original in *that!* ¶ You know precisely what made me "explode." I despise argument by intimidation—like the treatment you are getting by the pro-Zionist dupes in APA-L. It is incredible how intelligent people with a sense of humour can go weirdo when that Mystical (and statist) nonsense is brought up. Richard Friedman (Orthodox Jewish frefan) is the only one I have ever rapped with on isolationism who became halfway reasonable when Israel was brought up. And it took five years! I'd say we ought to give up on them, except for the fact they *may* be the marginals who allow the State to drag us into World War III. ¶ Of course, they are right that the United Nation-Statists have no moral ground for criticism—but where's Israel's isolationism?

**Harry Andruschak** I almost never hear Christmas Carols anymore—and I like them (Christian fandom filk songs!). You must be sensitive for some reason. ¶ Agreed on Ellison and Silverbob. ¶ New York subways were *privately* built and are 24 hours a day. You should see the shape they're in since the statist took over.

**Hilda Hannifen** Read this first in *A&E6*. Will comment there. **Fang** Why?

**Mark Swanson** You said it, not me. ¶ I agree that all politics is an exercise in futility (qualification: for non-statists—). Notice *I* am opposed to it; you are for it. See the advantages of being "pure" and consistent? ¶ Wanna bet New Zealand doesn't get any less statist through the new government's actions?

**Hilda Hannifen** I hope I have a character ready for Balrog Belle's Grand Opening. Fabulous!

**Tom Digby** I'd celebrate whatever holidays are local—except Boxing Day, of course. That's special.

## APA-L 552 Ripostes

**Cover** That's not Ed Buchman! Where's the "ook"?

**Patrick Hayden** Let's see, you're from Toronto and I'm from Edmonton, so we obviously know each other intimately, right? (How often have the Yanks pulled their Incredible Ignorance of What's North trip on you?) ¶ One reason you may not have previously considered libertarianism is that the Toronto movement is about three years behind us down here (Steve Jarvis excepted); no prejudices though, the Edmonton Group is *five* years behind! ¶ How, how, how can anybody assert that the Omni-Incompetent State is *practical* and letting people muddle through to take care of that which they know best (themselves) is *impractical*? To understand my feelings, take what you know of the proportions of Space, and hear some mundane say, "There's so little space and it's too far away! Stay on Earth and be practical!" That might give you an idea

of how a libertarian gets amazed every time somebody talks about anarchy as "idealistic" and "impractical." As for Deckert, he'll see what's wrong with government when they drag him away or he'll still blank it out. A total loss either way. ¶ Well, I don't consider Toronto or any other decadent Eastern City livable. (I just escaped after 5 years in New York.) Go west, young fan!

**Hilda Hannifen** Rought, but gripping, story. I especially liked the part where he used Libertarians as a rationalization for fearing his "poor people." But you knew I would. \*ook\*

**Bill Warren** What is the I.A.S.F.S. improvisational group improvising? That is, what do you do and how do you do it? Acting?

**Marty Cantor** "Puff, puff, puff...ook! But Puffff...ook, ook!" Got it! Your best article yet. I didn't know tobacco sugar was discernible to the smoker. Edgeworth is, of course, Virginia. So I must be indulging my sweet tooth? ¶ I also added a UHF converter to my former TV set—because I moved to the U.S. (No UHF in at least Western Canada. Patrick?) ¶ And anticipating (hopefully unfairly) your comments, I firmly believe being opposed to the Israeli *State* is being pro-Jewish *individual* (same as being anti-U.S. State is being pro-American). I won't accuse supporters of Israel of being anti-Semitic, though, just suckers for the oldest buncombe in history ("The Thugs across the border are worse than the thugs over here."). ¶ OK, so how can I get the great Edgeworth flavour without "flavour additives?" ¶ I don't have translucent stems on my Meerschaums. Medico has them all equally black and opaque (maybe they're hiding something?) I'm afraid your points on bristle pipe cleaners are well-taken, but necessarily only for new pipes. (Ones you sell me, for example.) ¶ OK by me if you want to discuss pipes, SF, and road thingies instead of libertarianism. Believe me, I get enough of it professionally.

**Lee Gold** Ah, a zine published in L.A. (area). Now, welcome back!

¶ Save your compassion for Mary (and by extension, me). I smoke 'e, because I like 'em. Listen, we were *all* non-smokers once (as children) and I can remember what it was like to be a non-smoker. Around smokers. Frankly, it didn't bother me a bit. Ergo, either you are supersensitive (i.e., a handicapped person I should make allowances for) or you have been sucked in by the Statist anti-smoking propaganda. I line up with Marty and cheer a lusty "Down with the New Prohibitionists!" with each savoury puff. ¶ That's it! You pinned down what bothered me about Eney's Dorsai songs. They *are* totally out of character.

**Tom Digby** You mean the ditto masters don't have to be run thrice (for road thingies)? How does it work, then?

**Matthew Tepper** Who is Deborah Deckert? A look-alike for the Big Name Fan Kheft Salerno? ¶ "Are You Saved?" Capital, dear fellow!"

**Tom Collins** Still more pubbing! Well, well, We are coming along nicely. Soon the actfan repossession will be complete \**heh, heh*\*. ¶ No comment for me? I'll remember that, next time you complain. ¶ UFOs and Astrology? You're getting as bad as Johnstone. I suspected a taint of mysticism... ¶ Have I stumbled onto something I wasn't supposed to, or do you have a large typo? You asked Tom Locke about a "giant Libertarian reprint zine." He has expressed no sympathy with libertarianism as far as I know (except once buying an issue of *NLW*, which only shows curiosity and possibly completism). ¶ I can agree it would be useful info to find out which wing of the Higher Circles zapped Kennedy, but "...remained unpunished"? For what, shooting the Butcher of Vietnam and the Plunderer of the New Frontier? Is this some old, liberal Democrat knee-jerk reaction of yours? (Feel free to answer in private. My views are already public record.)

**Alan Frisbie** Did you know Frank and Gail are moving into your address?

**Frank Gasperik** Did you know Alan Frisbie just moved to your new address?

**Real Estate Agent of F.G., G.S., and A.F.** Do you know the penalties for real estate fraud?

**Len Moffatt** I was about to ask you a question, but then I figured you'd respond "Why ask me? Ask June!" (Who's on first? What's on second? I don't know...?) ¶ An East Coast fanfriend gave me a copy of *Rocket to the Morgue*. I am moving it up my list of priorities.

**Allan Rothstein** See comment to Marty Cantor. I will say you have put the case for your position better than any I've heard—but it's still wrong. (Yes, one and all, ideas and beliefs *are* right and wrong, even if they should not be enforced. No epistemological hidey-holes here.)