

clearerther! is the all-purpose personalzine of Samuel Edward Konkin III. It is published irregularly (semi-monthly, approximately) for exchange with other Science Fiction fanzines and for the following Amateur Press Associations: *APA-nu*, *Alarums & Excursions*, *LASFAPA*, *CarbAPA*, and any others the editor is invited to join. **clearerther!** is available only for trade, letter-of-comment, or in APA. **clearerther!** welcomes fanart, locs and filks; the faned will also consider other faanish material and even sercon material for inclusion. All correspondence should be sent to faned thus: NewLibertarianEnterprises, P.O. Box 1748, Long Beach, CA 90801, Personal: SEK3. □

This issue is Number 18 (of Volume II) and is intended primarily for *LASFAPA 4* (January 8, 1977) and *APA-NYU 22* (February 3, 1977). Next issue: D&D for *A&E*: "Hell, no, Gygax!"

TALE OF TWO APAS

At the moment, I am contributing this zine to two disties simultaneously. Nothing unusual about that.

Both APAs are monthly spin-offs of the same original APA. Unusual, but not unheard of.

The original APA was the largest weekly APA in the world of fandom, APA-L. I was present at the creation of both the offspring, father to one and nearly godfather to the other.

They are very different siblings, and, being in a reflective mood, I've been dwelling on their characteristics. If nothing else, everybody but Andy Andruschak and myself may at least be curious about the other disty, so here are my impressions.

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Amateur Press Association is the four-month infant. Its function, as I understand Andy, is to simply return to APA fanac those of us who have dropped out of APA-L because we couldn't maintain a weekly pace, or for other reasons. Like me, for instance. Naturally, *LASFAPA* is also picking up fans who would like to participate in L.A. fanac but would not have dreamed of undertaking a weekly APA. And a third component are those who are not yet sated by APA-L every week and crave yet another APA!

Now, note that all of the above categories tend to draw established fans—*paleos*, as opposed to *neos*. Off-hand, I can't remember a single *neo* in *LASFAPA*, but there might be one. And besides experienced fans, we have Andy giving excellent service in distribution, probably in part because he feels we expect no less of him. I don't.

And because of APA experience, we tend a little more to avoid feuds and remarks that might trigger feuds, and even making remarks to fans or about certain fans that might trigger feuds. So far, *LASFAPA* has got to be the most mellow, considerate APA I've ever been in. But then it's only four months old. (I except those APA-Lers who insist on carrying on their pet gripes into *LASFAPA*; but the rest of us ignore them anyways.)

The Amateur Press Association of New York University (*APA-NYU*, or *APA-[Greek letter] nu*) is three years old. Now while the most I did for *LASFAPA* was to pledge support to Andy from the start and do a title for it (which he didn't care for), in the case of *APA-v* I actually carried the seed in me.

In January, 1974, I spent a month in California, though I was enrolled at New York University, and would return for another year and a half. I managed to make one LASFS meeting, and dutifully lined up to pick up my *APA-L*. Returning to New York, I was full of ideas of NYUSFS, most of which were really inappropriate. But I passed around the *APA-L* and felt out the fen. How about an APA for NYUSFS?

There were a lot of obstacles. We had only fifteen to twenty attendees on a good day, while LASFS was flooded with sixty to eighty members showing up. Furthermore, although I had the idea and was willing to contribute the best damn zine for each disty, I did not want to be Overall Editor. I had enough responsibility with my own fanzine (*New Libertarian Notes*) at the time. Furthermore, I didn't want to scare off any potential contributors who might think they needed to be libertarians to contribute with me as O.E.

So I convinced Richard Friedman, the long-suffering and overburdened "Mayor" of NYUSFS-in-flight, to be OE of *APA-v* and we put out the first disty in February, 1974 (or was it March?). It hasn't been all that monthly (we did not even consider a weekly, though I did suggest a tri-weekly), or we would have more than twenty-two issues in three years. Sometimes we would have ten or twelve zines, sometimes two or three, and death seemed imminent. But a thirteenth issue came out as I left for the West Coast for good, and I determined to keep up with old NYUSFS fanfriends via *APA-v* as long as anyone gave enough of a damn to put it out.

The past year has seen an evolution in *APA-v*, probably paralleling the change in NYUSFS. When we refren left the East, we probably lowered the average age of the group considerably. Femfen were a rarity in the beginning, one or two a meeting, then as I was leaving, up to four or five. Now it seems to be approaching the magic half-and-half.

The refren are gone, Mike and Cyndi are gone, Phil (cuneifan) hasn't returned, and now Richard is leaving. And there is definitely the flavor of the neo in the pages now.

With the Moslow-Friedman feud finally blown up (and hopefully blown away), we should see a little less friction, but again, both because of the frayed New York temperament and the high neo proportions, emotions will continue to surge and ebb.

The less said about the efficiency of *APA-v* distribution in the past six months, the better. For the record, I was accorded #1 (*APA-v* is numbered) of each disty. I do attempt to send something for each collation, so do indeed get worried if you don't receive anything. The lost *Conzo* report is irreplaceable, so let's forget it. And I suggest in the future that rather than deciding whether to send me a bunch for the refren in the Anarchovillage, just send one copy to everyone who earned one for contributing, such as myself, Vic Koman, and Bob Cohen.

The contrast between *APA-v* and *LASFAPA* is pretty stark, and I can't help feeling that each would be better off with an awareness of "how the other half lives." I'm eager to get a couple of refugees from *APA-v* into *LASFAPA* for a little spice; maybe some LASFAPAns looking for still another APA and wanting something quite different might sample *APA-v*.

Meanwhile, in the future, I'll continue to run as many joint issues for both APAs as I can justify; not only is it economical, and not only can I cross-fertilize, but I'd rather address a whole rather than a couple of parts of

fandom separately.

And thus shall I be satisfied.



EN GARDE AT THE RIPOSTE OFFICE LASFAPA 2

Bob Wilson Yes, it's unusual not to have ever played D&D. But maybe not in Toronto . . .

Me Well, at least *Conzo* made some disty.

Dan Goodman It's been a while since I've written a comment to you. ¶ Politics! For shame! My lips are sealed. ¶ Never knew you were soft on the Lensman series. Tsk. I prefer them by far to the Skylark series, which I also enjoy. ¶ I write in one draft, correct when I typeset.

Tom Digby Mighty glad to see you again, too. Already your APA Pagecount Credit Union has become a new catch-phrase. ¶ Are Sex Gremlins available for D&D?

N.C. Shapero Only seen you in *A&E* so far (and, most delightfully, in person). Welcome to genfandom! ¶ *The Mote in God's Eye* couldn't kiss the boot of the *First Lensman*. ¶ I would *never* say "we'd have to wait at least five years for the home automations market to really get going." ¶ Don't agree about time travel being possible. Give a single *experimental* case of time reversal.

Lee Gold I'm watching your titles, faunching to know your ductility (ah) and tensile strength (oh)! ¶ Back in an L.A. APA together, trading comments again. I guess it was just *au revoir* and not good-bye. ¶ You've got a good memory. I've noticed "echoes" in one person's writing of another's, but never thought of (or was too lazy to) check it. Good detective work! ¶ A moral law? *snicker* ¶ True, the Arisians were a bit weak on free will but Smith's view seems to be that they had parental authority over humans. When the Children of the Lens raised humanity above the level of Arisians, i.e., humanity "grew up," the "parents" took off. Wouldn't it be great if more parents learned that lesson? (By the way, I'm not saying I accept "parental authority" as legitimate; just that it's understandable Smith fell for it.) ¶ Love all this Doc Smith rapping. Comment hook: Suppose it

turned out that the Arisians were created by a race so far above them they didn't even know of their existence, to combat the scouts of an equally high evil race. (The scouts are the Eddorians, of course.) *Grandchildren of the Lens!* ¶ Wrote a story a couple years ago (recently pubbed in *CE!*) about a Groupmind. Villain, of course. Available on request (it was collated in *APA-v*).

David Schlosser I think a majority of LASFAPA will be non-APA-L. Regardless of how I eventually feel about *APA-L*, I think it would be a good thing for both APAs.

Rick Sneary Whoops, sorry; I seemed to have read your mail. ¶ I'd be willing to help revive a LASFAPS genzine: typesetting and writing.

Alan P. Winston Rumours of our demise are exaggerated.

Caine Smithe Frankly, old man, I dislike addressing anonymous writers. Established *nom de plumes*, perhaps. But ripping off an established pen name just doesn't make it. Go somewhere else and just die, please. Quietly.

Kay Jones Glad to meet you in APA (non-D&D) too! How did you like your first SFALB meeting? Coming to others? (Not all meetings are in Santa Monica.)

Harry Andruschak Good show, sir! (See earlier part of zine.) ¶ Vic Koman is reviving *Frefanzine*. Collation on Ground Hog Day. ¶ Support a party promising space flight? Well, we know your price. Andy, did it occur to you what they might do with a state-monopoly space flight? (cf. *The Iron Dream*.) ¶ Title change? Well, there's still Southern California Amateur Press Association Fans Laying Off Weeklies (SCAPA FLOW).

Bruce Pelz A fan of few words.

Susan L. Fox Hi, kid. Thanks for the tour.

LASFAPA 3

Cover A re-run? Surely there must be fan artists with new material faunching for fresh exposure.

Forrest J. Ackerman A true tale of woe. *sympathy*

Guy H. Lillian III Heard a lot about you, and very pleased to meet you in print. (No, we're not related. *in joke*) ¶ Too much bio to comment on, except that it held my interest to the end. See you at the next Southern Worldcon, Sun Con?

Kees Van Toorn We meet again! (Kees was in the first *APA-L* I ever saw—see opening article of this issue.) Hope we can trade some comment in your "overseas letter" format.

Dan Goodman FAPA? That's even more gross than my combo zines. ¶ Term in Canada (I should know) is *beer parlor*, not "beer hall." ¶ I lived in the East Village for three years—it was horrible. Not in the least romantic. We called our floor of apartments the "Anarchoslum."

Nate Bucklin I still don't understand what you *thought* the ending of *Inverted World* was. I too thought it was a cop-out.

Alan P. Winston Never heard of your title before. ¶ I'll comment on your fanfic if you'll loc my Con report.

Tom Digby I'm still reflecting on your zine. ¶ Individualists in a Groupmind? Aargh! ¶ Ah, just had a thought. What happens if A1 and A2 see each other through a refractory mirror?

Rita Prince Winston Never met a girl named Prince. ¶ I had similar thoughts of *Three to Dorsai!* being analagous to D&D. Wha about Thieves, Damsels, and Druids? Or, for that matter, monsters? ¶ Trekkies have romances? With an Intelligence roll maximum of 8? ¶ I'm about to read *Rocket to the Morgue*. Remind me in the next disty and I'll dig up your comment and answer then.

Lee Gold Well, thanks for the praise. *bask* Susan liked you, by the way. Sorry we couldn't make the LASFS meeting. ¶ You can pass on to Matthew Tepper that I for one would welcome him to *LASFAPA*. Even to *Frefanzine*. ¶ And thank Barry, too. Obviously, the man has a superior sense of humour.

Kay Jones Another compliment for *Conzo*. Always pleased to meet a lady of taste and discrimination.

Caine Smith OK, I forgive your anonymity if you're going to so astutely compliment my zine. But why the name, for Ghu's sake? ¶ Naive philosophy? Care to make that comment in *Frefanzine*?

Harry Andruschak I think I'm going to OD on egoboo! ¶ Any chance you'll make Sun Con? You can be a character in my next Con Report. ¶ Why is Susan Fox unfair to mad scientists and lovable mules?

Dan Goodman Good Lord, man, I would be embarrassed to write so much in an APA about NLW. (But I'm glad you did...) ¶ Of course you don't find libertarianism *compelling*! By the way, I think you'd be an asset to *Frefanzine*. ¶ Might finally break down and read a *DeLap*, just to read one of your reviews. ¶ And you can add to your FAPA comments that SFALB also has Santa Monica meetings.

Karen Anderson Thanks for Poul. And for you, too. I think I know that "lady who's a feminist, but reasonable about it." Runs a bookstore in New York, no?

APA-v 20

Jeff Grimshaw Hey, kid, really glad to see you back again. If I send you some NLWs, care to do some more illos and cartoons? (I pay, now!) ¶ Good cover. ¶ Would you consider doing a real, regular comic strip for NLW?

Richard Friedman Glad to see Cordwainer Smith mentioned. You could add that he was dramatized at Worldcon, since my con report didn't get collated. (No, I'm not bringing this up just to bitch.) ¶ Hope to get Mike & Cyndi into *LASFAPA*.

Maria C. Markham When you can't think of enough to say, do Comments. *hint* ¶ After your experience at the hospital, now do you believe what I've been saying about bureaucracy?

Fred M. Mazursky Thanks for the Fantasy Con report. Only one I've seen. ¶ Well, I've been many places, and should have been in *APA-v* with *Conzo* three disties ago, and here I am now. ¶ You got a "thing" about nurses?

Edward Horn Great type, lousy lay-out. And I see the Carl F. Gregor myth ain't dead yet.

Art Tobias Owe you a couple of letters, and I haven't forgotten you. ¶ Enjoyed your natterings. ¶ TV SF is as bad as movie SF. But I have hopes for *Star Wars* (see next ish of *CE!* in this APA).

D.F. Lieberman Hate to sleight you, but that's a really sloppy zine.

Fred Kuhn You're right; don't trust Gov. Brown. Tried to

call himself a libertarian, too.

Lee Ann Goldstein You're no relation to Lee Klingstein Gold? Hope to meet you someday, anyways. You sound like a lot of fun.

APA-v 21

Cover A little libertarian influence, there, Jeff? *heh, heh*

Richard A. Friedman Phone call was my pleasure. Would you believe it's been raining for a solid week here? God, it's bringing back memories of New York and NYUSFS meetings. Started just as Susan left, too. Keep in touch, old friend. ¶ Care to join *LASFAPA*? I'll agent.

Marc S. Glasser Hello, old friend. See comments to Rich.

¶ California a haven for the nonconventional? But scads of us attended the Worldcon! ¶ More filks!

Maria C. Markham This disty came quick. Glad to see your distribution is improving. Makes us outlanders feel a bit more wanted, you know. ¶ OK, what do you see in Vonnegut?

Alina Chu Doesn't sound like the Cheech Wizard I knew.

Frederic M. Mazursky So that's what you look like.

¶ Yep, you've got a thing about Nurses. Now me, I seem to fall for (in order) female entrepreneurs (entrepreneuses?), computer progammers, and even a welfare bureaucrat. No pattern, there, I'm afraid. ¶ Lost some of your deathless prose under the staples. Watch it.

D.F. Lieberman Have trouble with the language? If no one else has the heart to tell, let me gently break the news to you. Your zine is virtually unreadable. Stylistic tricks should be used with a bit of restraint, thrown in like spice.

Nina Razrushen Yes, I is true. Careful about invoking me, though. I may reappear...

Lee Ann Goldstein I didn't realize birth control for pets was such a big issue. What about abortions? (Pictures of pet fetuses distributed by Right-to-Pet-Life handed out on subways...) ¶ The de Camp book is part of the *Viagens Interplanteris* series; I recommend them all. Fletcher Pratt is fantastic; try him with de Camp. ¶ Is that what you look like? Yum.

Fred Cookinham Goddamit, who let the Partyarch in? Is there an exorcist in the house?

Paul N. Proch Good art. Looking forward to seeing more of you. ¶ Apropos of the "Father Christmas" story, ask Rich to show you *The Legend of Anarcho Claus*, or write me and I'll send you a copy.

NEXT TIME FOR LASFAPA & APA-v:

I'm finally going to come out of the closet on the SF movie question, with a hopeful pre-review of *Star Wars*. Also, I may have finished Sam Moscowitz's new book which is turning out quite, quite good. —SEK3

