

FOCAL POINT #1

a bi-weekly fanzine of
news, views and reviews,
edited by Mike McInerney

and rich brown from the Fiebold Palace, 268 E 4th Street, New York City, New York; published on the Fiebold Plonker Press; available for news, trades or, as a Last Resort, 3/25¢. Circulation: 125. January 8, 1965. NEW YORK IN '67!!!

FLASH-- Beginning with the April 1965 issue, ANALOG SCIENCE FACT AND SCIENCE FICTION will return to standard digest magazine size.

This change in size will be a bother to collectors, since it not only comes in the middle of a Volume but in the middle of a five-part serial as well. Besides the size change, there will also be a change in the cover layout (as we understand it, the lettering will run down the left side) and the magazine will be printed by the offset process. While no more slick paper sections will be used, the entire magazine will be printed on a new type of antique paper stock similar to that in use now; with this paper ANALOG will be able to print photos anywhere in the magazine. It is too bad that the change had to come at this time, since the opportunities inherent in the large-sized illustrations and layout were just beginning to look good. [Thanks to Ted White and Andy Porter.]

WE HAVE REASON to believe that the entire FAPA waiting list will, before the next FA comes out, be in for a bit of a surprise. We have been informed by an anonymous but unimpeachable source (i.e., one of the two editors of this journal) that more than the required number (10) have signed a blackball which listed the entire FAPA waiting list as-of FA 109. There will be a petition in the 110th mailing, attempting to over-ride this blackball -- and, it is to be hoped, a constitutional ammendment will be proposed as soon as possible to keep such a thing from happening again. It is whispered in Certain Dark Circles that the culprit behind the whole mess has rich, brown hair; if this is true, we here at the editorial offices of Focal Point will be among the first to agree that he should be condemned -- and possibly even Torn Down.

"I almost break your feet." --old Fanoclast joke.

HARLAN ELLISON HAS, thanx to California Al Lewis, postmailed a most interesting document to the 109th FAPA mailing. A STATEMENT OF POSTURE or Harlan Ellison for the Greater Good details Harlan's grievances against the LonCon's arbitrary dropping of the Hugo Drama Category in a year when, for once, there are Good Contenders for the Award. As Focal Point, we will wait to see what, if anything, the LonCon committee has to say about this; but as Seperate Individuals, we urge you to contact Harlan, contact Al Lewis, contact the committee; get off your tails and do something.

AN UPSURGE OF ACTIVITY in New York fandom over the past year has resulted in at least one new fan club, the Fannish & Insurgent Scientific Association (FISTFA) -- the Richard Wayne Brown Science Illustory Fondation and the Going To A Movie And Eating An At Upper East Side Chinese Restuarant Society having folded quietly away after one meeting each -- a new apa, AFA F, the first weekly apa in history; and now the new annual convention to brighten up fannish scenes, the Eastercon. The con will take place at the Hotel Edison on Friday and Saturday nights, April 24th and 25th, 1965. The Eastercon will have no program whatsoever; it will consist of two giant parties, held throughout the nights mentioned. Anyone may come and all are invited to do so; there will be no blackballs or exclusions. Those who wish to donate 50¢ to the Liquor Fund will receive a card allowing them to receive free and unlimited quantities of liquor through both nights of the con; anyone else may bring their own drinks, help themselves to the ice & etc., and use the convention rooms as their base of operations without any charge or admission fee whatsoever. The Eastercon is being held at the Hotel Edison on the same weekend as the Lunacon; held seperately, the two are intended to compliment each other, as the Lunacon is a one day programmed affair. There will be no competition between the two -- during the Lunacon, the Eastercon rooms will be closed so that Eastercon attendees may attend the Lunacon. For further information on the Eastercon, contact Mike McInerney, c/o FOCAL POINT. For more information on the Lunacon, contact Frank Dietz, 1759 Walton Avenue, Bronx, New York.

FAMOUS FANNISH FAN Ted White (whose micro-elite typer FOCAL POINT brings you the latest news on) has recently gone into sf writing in a big way. Invasion From 2500 which he wrote with Terry Carr came out from Monarch books early this Fall (he reports they just received their final payment for the book), and more recently he's sold a novel to Ace books. The Ace novel has the working title of The Murder Machine, but Ace doesn't care for sf books with "murder" in the title, so it will probably be changed. The book is dedicated to Wilson Tucker, and may sound the death-knell for sf books with inside-reference fannishisms. Ted has two more books currently in the works under his own name and is collaborating with Dave Van Arnam on another. In addition to his sf writing, he is doing articles for ROGUE again, including one on Gordon & Sis Cunningham, editors of the NY BROADSIDE, a mimeographed magazine for contemporary folk music.

THE FANOCLAST NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY was up to -- and probably past -- most attendees' expectations. Regular Fanoclasts included Andy Porter, Mike McInerney, rich brown, Marlon Frenzel, Dave Van Arnam, Steve Stiles, Andy Main, Arnie Katz, Lee Hoffman, Don & Jo Meisner (who brought the rum for the rum & hot cider), with the addition of out-of-town attendees Carole Bartosz (imported by Ted White from the wilds of Chicago for the occasion), Jim and Susan Caughran, Larry and Candy McCombs, Ron Ellik, Sue Hereford, and surprise guest Bill Donaho. The party was going strong until Ted White evicted everyone at 5:00 am. A small group of diehard stalwarts (Andy Main, Arnie Katz, Mike McInerney & Ted White) met again the next day to take in Murray The K's holiday rock & whatsit show at the Brooklyn Fox. And good holidays were had by all.

THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF FOCAL POINT were robbed on Monday, January 4, 1965. The thieves took both typewriters and our record-player. They skipped the clarinet (\$100), Banjo (\$50) 3 bottles of whiskey and over \$200 in cash. Obviously, this was the amateurish attempt of some rival newszine editor to keep us from making good in competing - but your humble obedient editors are resourceful!

WANTED: An overseas Representative. Also news, whether from overseas or elsewhere. All overseas fan receiving this are hereby proclaimed OFFOC -- Official Focal Point Overseas Correspondents. Like Murray The K, a New York disc-jockey, says, "What's Happenin', Baby?"

PPP -> focal point